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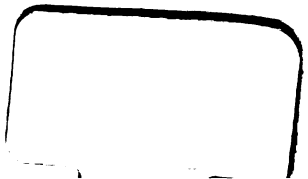
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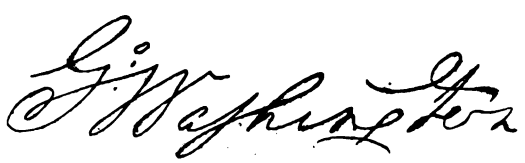
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LETTERS ON AGRICULTURE

FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO

ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ. F. R. S. AND SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART., M. P.

WITH

STATISTICAL TABLES AND REMARKS, BY THOMAS JEFFERSON, RICHARD PETERS,
AND OTHER GENTLEMEN, ON THE ECONOMY AND MANAGEMENT
OF FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES.

EDITED BY
FRANKLIN KNIGHT.

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WILLIAM S. MARTIEN
PRINTER.

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TO

THE FARMERS OF THE UNITED STATES

THIS WORK

EXHIBITING THE VIEWS

OF THE

ILLUSTRIOUS FARMER OF MOUNT VERNON

ON

AGRICULTURE

REGARDED BY HIM

THE MOST HONOURABLE PURSUIT OF MAN

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THE EDITOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

WHILE the great WASHINGTON lived, it was thought, that without his name and his support, no object of national importance could be safely undertaken. Nor was this confidence confined to matters of a public nature. In all kinds of business he was able, and was often called upon to give advice, even in cases where he must have judged, not from experience, but observation. That his opinion should deserve much more deference in those matters which belong to his peculiar sphere, no one will question.

It is as a soldier, and as a statesman, that we are most familiar with him. On questions of war and politics, none in the main, appeal from his decisions. Why should not the peaceful tillers of the soil place as great dependence in the first agriculturist of his day? Agriculture was WASHINGTON'S study and delight. In the cultivated field his practice was as excellent as his tactics skilful on the field of battle, his maxims of husbandry as wise as his political precepts. So important did he consider the position of the American Farmer, both to the wealth and prosperity of the nation, that he himself, setting the prime example, devoted all his leisure time either to the culture of his farms in person, overseeing and directing all things with his own eye, or in conducting an extensive correspondence on the subject with some of the most experienced men in Europe.

The "LETTERS TO ARTHUR YOUNG AND SIR JOHN SINCLAIR," cannot therefore be too highly prized, presenting as they do the opinions of one so practical and scientific;

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and as coming from WASHINGTON, exclusively of their internal merit, are worthy of the highest regard of every American citizen.

Every one who reads these letters, will perceive that the illustrious Farmer of Mount Vernon was not only in advance of his day in regard to the agriculture of this country, but in advance of the present day; for it may well be doubted whether any farmer in the United States now conducts his operations with such perfect system. He determined with mathematical certainty years before hand, just what rotations in his crops he would make; and laid out his plans so accurately, that he never found it necessary to change them, unless for the purpose of making some experiment. Theory and practice went hand in hand, and he proved how true it is in agriculture, as in every other occupation, that "science crowns her votaries." He regarded this as the most noble, and the most ennobling of all employments.

That time is past, when to serfs and slaves alone was committed the production of the fruits of the earth, and when to do such work constituted man a menial. That falsehood, with numberless like errors, is fast vanishing away in the night of the dark ages. Here at least, in this new world, the American Farmer may look up, and fear not glorying in his occupation. He feels himself one of a class which is a pillar, and an honored pillar too, of the nation. Here, under the temple of freedom, he may lift his embrowned hands toward heaven, and thank GOD for the blessings of liberty secured, toil ennobled; and for WASHINGTON, under GOD, the ensurer of all these privileges, and FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY.

WASHINGTON was also in advance of his times in relation to the establishment of a National Board of Agriculture. With his far reaching mind, he conceived of the great advantages which must grow out of such an institution. Prompted in this, as he was in every thing, by the purest patriotism, he urged the subject on the attention of Congress from year to year; and in his last message, 5th of December, 1796, presents it to their consideration in the following manner:

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"It will not be doubted, that, with reference either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as nations advance in population and other circumstances of maturity, this truth becomes more apparent and renders the cultivation of the soil more and more an object of public patronage. Institutions for promoting it grow up, supported by the public purse; and to what object can it be dedicated with greater propriety? Among the means which have been employed to this end, none have been attended with greater success than the establishment of BOARDS, composed of proper characters, charged with collecting and diffusing information, and enabled by premiums, and small pecuniary aid, to encourage and assist a spirit of discovery and improvement. This species of establishment contributes doubly to the increase of improvement, by stimulating to enterprise and experiment, and by drawing to a common centre, the results every where of individual skill and observation, and spreading them thence over the whole nation. Experience, accordingly, has shown that they are very cheap instruments of immense national benefits."

In this country agriculture has been, and must ever continue to be, the chief pursuit of the great body of our citizens. Before no other people, perhaps, has Providence spread out such an extent of varied, well watered, and fertile lands, reaching from the cold and severe climate of Canada, to the sunny plains of Texas, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean; large portions of it, as yet, untouched by the implements of agricultural industry. Large and navigable rivers flow in various directions through these immense regions, affording a ready passage for the productions of the earth to our great commercial cities, where they can be distributed among the various markets of the world.

Since then all other pursuits derive their life and energy from Agriculture, and our inducements and advantages for the cultivation of the soil are so numerous and great, whatever may contribute to the skill, success and elevation of those who may engage in it, must be deeply interesting to all classes of our citizens, and to every section of the country.

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The Father of his country has left upon record, that agriculture had ever been his favourite pursuit. And in one of his most interesting letters to Sir John Sinclair, he observes, "I know of no pursuit in which more real and important service can be rendered to any country, than by improving its agriculture, its breed of useful animals, and other branches of an husbandman's cares;"—and it is well known that at all times, when not occupied by public duties, and especially after he retired from the service of his country, he engaged zealously in the culture and improvement of his own farm, and availed himself of all means and sources of information that might contribute to his success. He saw not only that commerce and manufactures, and all the varied forms of mechanical effort were sustained by agriculture; that without its aid and resources all other activities and operations must quickly cease; but that this was the main foundation of the wealth of States, and especially that it must be so of our Republic; and that, as Liebig remarks, a rational system of agriculture must rest on scientific principles; although, in the time of WASHINGTON these principles were but very imperfectly developed. Chemistry, geology, mineralogy, and botany, are all in close relation to agriculture; and the great work of Liebig on the application of the first of these sciences to the discovery of the nature and properties of soils, vegetables and manures, and their adaptation to each other, has already done much, and will do far more to enlighten, advance, and reward agricultural industry.

But agriculture is not less an art than a science; and though in this respect nearly as much neglected as in the latter, yet a new spirit has been excited, and through the publications of many intelligent Farmers, and the statements of their varied and valuable experiments, and the efforts and influence of agricultural societies, we may anticipate rapid improvements in all the methods and operations of husbandry.

Let the Farmer be well informed, let him realize the importance and dignity of his vocation, and he will see that his interests, no less than his reputation, are concerned in the skilful management and application of all his materials and

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instrumentalities to the end for which they are designed. His tools, cattle, fences, barns, and every thing pertaining to his farm, will exhibit skill, care, judgment and good taste; and all the movements and adjustments indicate the presence of a well ordered, enlightened, and well disciplined mind.

Among the many errors of the day, there are few greater, or more pernicious, than that of imagining agriculture a pursuit which may be prosecuted successfully with little or no education. It certainly demands an education far more varied and extensive, than that of any other profession or pursuit; and recent discoveries seem to indicate that even those who have devoted to it most intensely and exclusively their attention, are as yet but acquainted with the rudiments of agricultural knowledge. It is then highly important that our youth should be educated for the profession of agriculture, that they should not only study the theory, but see practically exhibited the best systems of agriculture, and horticulture, which is its adorning.

For this purpose seminaries must be established, where instruction in practical agriculture shall be combined with science and literature, imparting a charm to labor performed in demonstration of theory.

But, perhaps, our chief reliance for immediate improvement must be upon societies formed in the several towns and counties throughout the Union; upon the diffusion of well prepared publications, and upon the efforts of individuals, producing by their writings and example, a general sentiment which shall give to this employment that high place among the pursuits of human life, which it so eminently merits and demands.

The moral effects of the peaceful and quiet pursuits of agriculture are not among its least recommendations. It has been in the retirement of the country, in communion with nature and nature's God, admonished by the influence of the seasons, and other causes which human wisdom could neither foresee nor control, of

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a constant dependence upon an overruling Providence, that the most virtuous and greatest minds have been formed. Thus some of the sternest and noblest patriots of old Rome were summoned from the Plough to the Senate, the command of armies, or to hold the helm of State in troublous times. So the immortal WASHINGTON was called by his bleeding country to command her forces in the great contest for our liberties. And we rest assured that Agriculture, of all the pursuits of man, connected with the things of the present life, is most free from dangerous temptations, most certain of a competent reward, most favourable to domestic virtue, to patriotism, and to piety.

F. K.

WASHINGTON, February 22, 1847.

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LETTERS.

MOUNT VERNON, 5th of August, 1786.

SIR,

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq. of Bury, in Suffolk, having been so obliging as to offer to procure for me, implements of husbandry, seeds, &c. I have accepted his kindness with much pleasure, because he is a competent judge of the first, and will be careful that the latter are good of their several kinds; a thing of much consequence, and which does not often happen with seeds imported into this country from Europe.

I have requested him to forward these articles to your care, and draw upon you for the amount. Let me entreat your particular attention to them, with a request that the captain of the vessel on board of which they are shipped, may be solicited to keep the seeds in the cabin, or out of the ship's hold, at any rate, as they never fail to heat and spoil when put there.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

WAKELIN WELCH, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 6th of August, 1786.

SIR,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the seventh of January, from Bradfield-Hall, in Suffolk, and thank you for the favour of opening a correspondence, the advantages of which will be so much in my favour.

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Agriculture has ever been amongst the most favourite amusements of my life, though I never possessed much skill in the art; and nine years total inattention to it, has added nothing to a knowledge which is best understood from practice; but with the means you have been so obliging as to furnish me, I shall return to it (though rather late in the day) with hope and confidence.

The system of agriculture, if the epithet of system can be applied to it, which is in use in this part of the United States, is as unproductive to the practitioners as it is ruinous to the land-holders. Yet it is pertinaciously adhered to. To forsake it, to pursue a course of husbandry which is altogether different and new to the gazing multitude, ever averse to novelty in matters of this sort, and much attached to their old customs, requires resolution; and without a good practical guide, may be dangerous; because, of the many volumes which have been written on this subject, few of them are founded on experimental knowledge—are verbose, contradictory, and bewildering. Your Annals shall be this guide. The plan on which they are published, gives them a reputation which inspires confidence; and for the favour of sending them to me, I pray you to accept my very best acknowledgments. To continue them, will add much to the obligation.

To evince with what avidity, and with how little reserve, I embrace the polite and friendly offer you have made me, of supplying me with "men, cattle, tools, seeds, or any thing else that may add to my rural amusement," I will give you, Sir, the trouble of providing, and sending to the care of Wakelin Welch, Esq. of London, merchant, the following articles:

Two of the simplest and best-constructed ploughs for land which is neither very heavy nor sandy. To be drawn by two horses—to have spare shares and coulters—and a mould on which to form new irons when the old ones are worn out, or will require repairing.

I shall take the liberty in this place to observe, that some years ago, from a

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description, or recommendation of what was then called the Rotherham, or patent plough, I sent to England for one of them; and till it began to wear, and was ruined by a bungling country smith, that no plough could have done better work, or appeared to have gone easier with two horses; but for want of a mould, which I had neglected to order with the plough, it became useless after the irons which came in with it were much worn.

A little of the best kind of cabbage-seeds, for field culture.

Twenty pounds of the best turnip-seeds, for ditto.

Ten bushels of sainfoin-seeds.

Eight bushels of the winter vetches.

Two bushels of rye-grass seeds.

Fifty pounds of hop clover-seeds.

And, if it is decided, for much has been said for and against it, that burnet, as an early food, is valuable, I should be glad of a bushel of this seed also. Red clover-seeds are to be had on easy terms in this country, but if there are any other kinds of grass-seeds, not included in the above, that you may think valuable, especially for early feeding or cutting, you would oblige me by adding a small quantity of the seeds, to put me in stock. Early grasses, unless a species can be found that will stand a hot sun, and oftentimes severe droughts in the summer months, without much expense of cultivation, would suit our climate best.

You see, Sir, that without ceremony, I avail myself of your kind offer; but if you should find in the course of our correspondence, that I am likely to become troublesome, you can easily check me. Inclosed I give you an order on Wakelin Welch, Esq. for the cost of such things as you may have the goodness to send me. I do not at this time ask for any other implements of husbandry than the ploughs; but when I have read your Annals (for they are but just come to hand) I may request more. In the meanwhile, permit me to ask what a good ploughman might be had for: annual wages, to be found (being a single man) in board, washing, and lodging? The writers upon husbandry estimate the hire of labourers so differently in England, that it is not easy to discover from them, whether one of the class I am speaking of would

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cost eight or eighteen pounds a year. A good ploughman at low wages, would come very opportunely with the ploughs here requested.

By means of the application I made to my friend Mr. Fairfax, of Bath, and through the medium of Mr. Rack, a bailiff is sent to me, who, if he is acquainted with the best courses of cropping, will answer my purposes as a director or superintendent of my farms. He has the appearance of a plain honest farmer;—is industrious;—and from the character given of him by a Mr. Peacy, with whom he has lived many years, has understanding in the management of stock, and of most matters for which he is employed. How far his abilities may be equal to a pretty extensive concern, is questionable. And what is still worse, he has come over with improper ideas; for instead of preparing his mind to meet a ruinous course of cropping, exhausted lands, and numberless inconveniencies into which we had been thrown by an eight years war, he seems to have expected that he was coming to well organized farms, and that he was to have met ploughs, harrows, and all the other implements of husbandry, in as high taste as the best farming counties in England could have exhibited them. How far his fortitude will enable him to encounter these disappointments, or his patience and perseverance will carry him towards the work of reform, remains to be decided.

With great esteem, I have the honour to be,

Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, 15th of November, 1786.

SIR,

The inclosed is a duplicate of the letter I had the honour of writing to you the 6th of August.

The evil genius of the vessel by which it was sent, (which had detained her many weeks in this country, after the letters intended to go by her were ready, agreeably

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to the owner's appointment,) pursued her to sea, and obliged the captain, when many days out, by the leaky condition in which she appeared, to return to an American port. The uncertainty of his conduct with respect to the letters, is the apology I offer for giving you the trouble of the inclosed.

Since the date of it, I have had much satisfaction in perusing the Annals of Agriculture, which you did me the honor to send me. If the testimony of my approbation, Sir, of your disinterested conduct and perseverance, in publishing so useful and beneficial a work, than which nothing, in my opinion, can be more conducive to the welfare of your country, will add aught to the satisfaction you must feel from the conscious discharge of this interesting duty to it, I give it with equal willingness and sincerity.

In addition to the articles which my last requested the favour of you to procure me, I pray you to have the goodness of forwarding what follows:

Eight bushels of what you call velvet wheat, of which I perceive you are an admirer.

Four bushels of beans, of the kind you most approve for the purposes of a farm.

Eight bushels of the best kind of spring barley.

Eight bushels of the best kind of oats.

And eight bushels of sainfoin-seed. All to be in good sacks.

My soil will come under the the description of loam, with a hard clay, or (if it had as much of the properties as the appearance might be denominated) marl, from eighteen inches to three feet below the surface. The heaviest soil I have, would hardly be called a stiff or binding clay in England; and none of it is a blowing sand. The sort which approaches nearest the former, is a light grey; and that to the latter, of a yellow red. In a word, the staple has been good; but by use and abuse, it is brought into bad condition.

I have added this information, Sir, that you may be better able to decide on the kind of seed most proper for my farm.

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Permit me to ask one thing more. It is to favour me with your opinion, and a plan of the most complete and useful farm-yard, for farms of about five hundred acres. In this I mean to comprehend the barn, and every appurtenance which ought to be annexed to the yard. The simplest and most economical plan would be preferred, provided the requisites are all included. Mr. Welch will answer your draft for the cost of these articles, as before. He is advised of it.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

MOUNT VERNON, November 1, 1787.

SIR,

Your favour of the first of February came to hand about the middle of May last. An absence of more than four months from home, will be the best apology I can make for my silence till this time.

The grain, grass-seeds, ploughs, &c. arrived at the same time, agreeably to the list; but some of the former were injured (as will always be the case) by being put into the hold of the vessel; however, upon the whole, they were in much better order than those things are generally found to be, when brought across the Atlantic.

I am at a loss, Sir, how to express the sense which I have of your particular attention to my commissions, and the very obliging manner in which you offer me your services in any matters relating to agriculture, that I may have to transact in England. If my warmest thanks will in any measure compensate for these favours, I must beg you to accept of them. I shall always be exceedingly happy to hear from you, and shall very readily and cheerfully give you any information relative to the state of agriculture in this country, that I am able.

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I did myself the honour to hand the set of Annals to the Agriculture Society in Philadelphia, which you sent to that body, through me. The president wrote a letter to you, expressive of the sense they entertained of the favour which you did them; and mentioned therein, the effects of some experiments which had been made with plaster of Paris, as a manure: I intended to have given you an account of it myself, as I find the subject is touched upon in your Annals, but this letter has precluded the necessity of it.

The fifth volume of the Annals, which was committed to the care of Mr. Athawes for me, did not come to hand till some time after I had received the sixth.

The quantity of sainfoin which you sent me, was fully sufficient to answer my purpose; I have sown part of it, but find that it comes up very thin; which is likewise the case with the winter wheat, and some other seeds which I have sown.

I have a high opinion of beans, as a preparation for wheat, and shall enter as largely upon the cultivation of them next year, as the quantity of seed I can procure will admit.

I am very that glad you did not engage a ploughman for me at the high wages which you mention, for I agree with you, that that single circumstance, exclusive of the others which you enumerate, is sufficiently objectionable. I have tried the ploughs which you sent me, and find that they answer the description which you gave me of them; this is contrary to the opinion of almost every one who saw them before they were used; for it was thought their great weight would be an insuperable objection to their being drawn by two horses.

I am now preparing materials to build a barn precisely agreeable to your plan, which I think an excellent one. Before I undertake to give the information you request, respecting the arrangements of farms in this neighbourhood, &c. I must observe that there is, perhaps, scarcely any part of America, where farming has been

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less attended to than in this State. The cultivation of tobacco has been almost the sole object with men of landed property, and consequently a regular course of crops have never been in view. The general custom has been, first to raise a crop of Indian corn, (maize) which, according to the mode of cultivaton, is a good preparation for wheat; then a crop of wheat; after which the ground is respited (except from weeds, and every trash that can contribute to its foulness) for about eighteen months; and so on, alternately, without any dressing, till the land is exhausted; when it is turned out, without being sown with grass-seeds, or reeds, or any method taken to restore it; and another piece is ruined in the same manner. No more cattle is raised than can be supported by lowland meadows, swamps, &c. and the tops and blades of Indian corn; as very few persons have attended to sowing grasses, and connecting cattle with their crops. The Indian corn is the chief support of the labourers and horses. Our lands, as I mentioned in my first letter to you, were originally very good; but use, and abuse, have made them quite otherwise.

The above is the mode of cultivation which has been generally pursued here, but the system of husbandry which has been found so beneficial in England, and which must be greatly promoted by your valuable Annals, is now gaining ground. There are several, among which I may class myself, who are endeavouring to get into your regular and systematic course of cropping, as fast as the nature of the business will admit; so that I hope in the course of a few years, we shall make a more respectable figure as farmers, than we have hitherto done.

I will, agreeably to your desire, give you the prices of our products as nearly as I am able; but you will readily conceive from the foregoing account, that they cannot be given with any precision. Wheat, for the last four years, will average about 4*s.* sterling per bushel, of eight gallons. Rye about 2*s.* 4*d.* Oats 1*s.* 6*d.* Beans, peas, &c. have not been sold in any quantities. Barley is not made here, from a prevaling opinion that the climate is not adapted to it; I however, in opposition to prejudice, sowed about fifty bushels last spring, and found that it yielded a proportionate quantity with any other kind of grain which I sowed; I might add,

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more. Cows may be bought at about 3*l.* sterling, per head. Cattle for the slaughter vary from 2¼*d.*, to 4½*d.* sterling, per lb., the former being the current price in summer, the latter in the winter or spring. Sheep at 12*s.* sterling, per head; and wool at about 1*s.* per lb. I am not able to give you the price of labour, as the land is cultivated here wholly by slaves, and the price of labour in the towns is fluctuating, and governed altogether by circumstances.

Give me leave to repeat my thanks for your attention to me, and your polite offer to execute any business relating to husbandry, which I may have in England; and to assure you that I shall not fail to apply to you for whatever I may have occasion for in that line.

I am, Sir,

With very great esteem,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. I observe in the sixth volume of your Annals, there is a plate and description of Mr. Winlaw's mill, for separating the grain from the heads of corn. Its utility or inutility has, undoubtedly, been reduced to a certainty before this time; if it possesses all the properties and advantages mentioned in the description, and you can from your own knowledge, or such information as you *entirely* rely on, recommend it as a useful machine, where labourers are scarce, I should be much obliged to you to procure one for me, to be paid for and forwarded by Mr. Welch; provided it is so simple in its construction, as to be worked by ignorant persons, without danger of being spoiled, for such only will manage it here; and the price of it does not exceed 15*l.*, as mentioned in the Annals, or thereabouts.

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MOUNT VERNON, December 4, 1788.

SIR,

I have been favoured with the receipt of your letter dated the first day of July; and have to express my thanks for the three additional volumes of the Annals, which have also come safely to hand.

The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs, the better I am pleased with them; insomuch, that I can no where find so great satisfaction as in those innocent and useful pursuits. In indulging these feelings, I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth, than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests. The design of this observation, is only to show how much, as a member of human society, I feel myself obliged, by your labours to render respectable and advantageous, an employment which is more congenial to the natural dispositions of mankind than any other.

I am also much indebted to you, for the inquiries you were so kind as to make respecting the threshing machines. Notwithstanding I am pretty well convinced from your account, that the new-invented Scotch machine is of superior merit to Winlaw's, yet I think to wait a little longer before I procure one. In the intermediate time, I am not insensible to your obliging offers of executing this, or any other commission for me; and shall take the liberty to avail myself of them as occasions may require.

I would willingly have sent you a lock of the wool of my sheep, agreeably to your desire, but it is all wrought into cloth, and I must therefore defer it until after the next shearing. You may expect it by some future conveyance. A manufacturer from Leeds, who was lately here, judges it to be of about the same quality with the English wool in general, though there is always a great difference in the fineness of different parts of the same fleece. I cannot help thinking, that increasing

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and improving our breed of sheep, would be one of the most profitable speculations we could undertake; especially in this part of the continent, where we have so little winter, that they require either no dry fodder, or next to none; and where we are sufficiently distant from the frontiers, not to be troubled with wolves or other wild vermin, which prevent the inhabitants there from keeping flocks. Though we do not feed our sheep upon leaves, as you mention they do in some parts of France, yet we cannot want for pastures enough suitable for them. I am at a loss, therefore, to account for the disproportion between their value and that of black cattle; as well as for our not augmenting the number. So persuaded am I of the practicability and advantage of it, that I have raised near two hundred lambs upon my farm this year. I am glad to find that you are likely to succeed in propagating the Spanish breed of sheep in England, and that the wool does not degenerate: for the multiplication of useful animals is a common blessing to mankind. I have a prospect of introducing into this country a very excellent race of animals also, by means of the liberality of the King of Spain. One of the jacks which he was pleased to present to me, (the other perished at sea,) is about fifteen hands high, his body and limbs very large in proportion to his height; and the mules which I have had from him, appear to be extremely well formed for service. I have likewise a jack and two jennetts from Malta, of a very good size, which the Marquis de la Fayette sent to me. The Spanish jack seems calculated to breed for heavy slow draught; and the others for the saddle, or lighter carriages. From these, altogether, I hope to secure a race of extraordinary goodness, which will stock the country. Their longevity and cheap keeping will be circumstances much in their favour. I am convinced from the little experiments I have made with the ordinary mules, which perform as much labour, with vastly less feeding than horses, that those of a superior quality will be the best cattle we can employ for the harness; and indeed in a few years, I intend to drive no other in my carriage, having appropriated for the sole purpose of breeding them, upwards of twenty of my best mares.

Since I wrote to you formerly, respecting the objection made by my labourers to the weight of my ploughs, I have had sufficient experience to overcome the ill-

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founded prejudice, and find them answer the purpose exceedingly well. I have been laying out my farm into fields of nearly the same dimensions, and assigning crops to each until the year 1795. The building of a brick barn has occupied much of my attention this summer. It is constructed according to the plan you had the goodness to send me; but with some additions. It is now, I believe, the largest and most convenient one in this country. Our seasons in this country, or at least in this part of it, have been so much in the two opposite extremes of dry and wet, for the two summers past, that many of my experiments have failed to give a satisfactory result, or I would have done myself the pleasure of transmitting it to you. In the first part of the last summer, the rains prevailed beyond what has been known in the memory of man; yet the crops in most parts of the United States are good. They were much injured, however, in those places on my farm, where the soil is mixed with clay, and so stiff as to be liable to retain the moisture. I planted a large quantity of potatoes, of which only those that were put in as late as the end of June, have produced tolerable well. I am, notwithstanding, more and more convinced of the prodigious usefulness of this root, and that it is very little, if any thing of an exhauster. I have a high opinion also of carrots. The same unfavourableness of the season, has rendered it unimportant to give a detail of my experiments this year in flax, though I had sowed twenty-five bushels of the seed. In some spots it has yielded well; in others very indifferently, much injured by weeds and lodgits.

As to what you suggest at the close of your letter, respecting the publication of extracts from my correspondence, in your Annals, I hardly know what to say. I certainly highly approve the judicious execution of your well-conceived project of throwing light on a subject, which may be more conducive than almost any other to the happiness of mankind. On the one hand it seems scarcely generous or proper, that any farmer, who receives benefit from the facts contained in such publications, should withhold his mite of information from the general stock. On the other hand, I am afraid it might be imputed to me as a piece of ostentation, if my name should appear in the work. And surely it would not be discreet for me to run the hazard of incurring this imputation, unless some good might probably result to society, as

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some kind of compensation for it. Of this I am not a judge, I can only say for myself, that I have endeavoured, in a state of tranquil retirement, to keep myself as much from the eye of the world as I possibly could. I have studiously avoided, as much as was in my power, to give any cause for ill-natured or impertinent comments on my conduct: and I should be very unhappy to have any thing done on my behalf, however distant in itself from impropriety, which should give occasion for one officious tongue to use my name with indelicacy. For I wish most devoutly to glide silently and unnoticed through the remainder of life. This is my heart-felt wish; and these are my undisguised feelings. After having submitted them confidentially to you, I have such a reliance upon your prudence, as to leave it with you to do what you think, upon a full consideration of the matter, shall be wisest and best.

I am, with very great regard and esteem, Sir,

Your most obedient and obliged humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

NEW YORK, August 15, 1789.

SIR,

Recollecting that in one of your letters to me, you had requested me to send you a sample of the wool produced by my sheep, I directed that a fleece of a middling size and quality should be sent to me at this place, which has been done; and I now transmit it to you by the British packet, directed to the care of Messrs. Wakelin Welch & Son, in London.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

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PHILADELPHIA, August 15, 1791.

SIR,

That I may not be thought inattentive to your favour of the 25th of January, which came to my hands about ten days ago only, I avail myself of the first packet since the receipt of it, to inform you that the Annals, and *Chicorium intibus*, have got safe to my hands. A set of the former I have presented, in your name, agreeably to your request, to the Agricultural Society in this city. For the other set, for the seeds, and for the manufactured wool from the fleece I sent you, I pray you to accept my best thanks.

With astonishment hardly to be conceived, I read in No. 86 of your Annals, the account of the taxes with which you are burthened. Had the account come from dubitable authority, the reality of such a tax would not only have been questioned, but *absolutely* disbelieved; for I can assure you, Sir, that there is nothing in this country that has the semblance of it. I do not, however, mean to dwell on this, or any other part of your letter at this time: the purpose of my writing to you now, is to acknowledge the receipt of the things you had the goodness to send me; and to assure you, that with great pleasure I will forward, in a short time, such information with respect to the prices of lands, stock, grain, amount of taxes, &c. &c. as will enable you to form a pretty accurate idea of the present state, and future prospects, of this country.

In the mean-while, I believe I may confidently add, that although our agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, are progressing; although our taxes are light; although our laws are in a fair way of being administered well, and our liberties and properties secured on a solid basis, by the general government having acquired more and more consistency, strength, and respectability as it moves on; yet that no material change in the prices of the above articles has taken place, except in a few instances of land under peculiar advantages; nor is it probable there will be in the latter, whilst there is such an immense territory back of us, for the people to resort

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to. In a word, Sir, when you come to receive full answers to your several inquiries, I am inclined to believe that you will not be unfavourably impressed, or think an establishment in the United States, ineligible to those whose views are extended beyond the limits of their own country.

Having closed my correspondence with Wakelin Welch, Esq. and Son, I have to request that your communications to me, in future, may pass through the hands of Mr. Johnson, Consul for the United States in London. With best wishes, and sentiments of much esteem,

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, and very humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

PHILADELPHIA, December 5, 1791.

SIR,

In a letter which I addressed to you on the 15th of August, acknowledging the receipt of your favour dated the 25th of January preceding, I promised to answer the queries contained in it, in detail. Accordingly I took measures for that purpose, by writing to some of the most intelligent farmers in the state of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; as you will perceive by the circular letter herewith enclosed: and have obtained the answers from the three last-mentioned States, that are thereunto annexed. I did not extend my inquiries to the northward of New York, nor to the southward of Virginia; because in neither extremity of the Union, in my opinion, is the climate, soil, or other circumstances, well adapted to the pursuits of a *mere* farmer, or congenial to the growth of the smaller grains.

I have delayed the information I am about to give you, in expectation of receiving answers which have been promised me from the states of New York and New Jersey; but as they are not yet arrived, and a vessel is on the point of sailing for London,

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I shall put this packet under cover to Joshua Johnson, Esq. our Consul at that port; with a request to him, that it may be forwarded to you by a safe conveyance. The others shall follow as opportunities may present; it being my wish to give you a comprehensive view of the different parts of this country: although I have no hesitation in giving it at the same time as my opinion, that if I had a new establishment to make in it, it would be, under the knowledge I entertain of it at present (and I have visited all parts, from New Hampshire to Georgia inclusively,) in one of the three States of which you are furnished with particular accounts. New York and New Jersey do not differ much in soil or climate, from the northern parts of Pennsylvania. Both are pleasant, and both are well improved, particularly the first. But the country beyond these, to the eastward (and the farther you advance that way, it is still more so,) is unfriendly to wheat, which is subject to a blight or mildew, and of late years, to a fly, which has almost discouraged the growth of it. The lands, however, in the New England States, are strong and productive of other crops, are well improved, populously seated, and as pleasant as it can be in a country fast locked in snow several months in the year.

To the southward of Virginia, the climate is not well adapted to wheat; and less and less so as you penetrate the warmer latitudes; nor is the country so thickly settled, or well cultivated. In a word, as I have already intimated, was I to commence my career of life anew, I should not seek a residence north of Pennsylvania, or south of Virginia: nor (but this I desire may be received with great caution, for I may, without knowing I am so, be biassed in favour of the river on which I live,) should I go more than twenty-five miles from the margin of the Potomac. In less than half that distance, in some places, I might seat myself either in Pennsylvania, Maryland, or Virginia, as local circumstances might prompt me.

Having said thus much, some of the reasons which lead to this opinion, may be expected in support of it.

Potomac river, then, is the centre of the Union. It is between the extremes of heat

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and cold. It is not so far to the south, as to be unfriendly to grass; nor so far north as to have the produce of the summer consumed in the length and severity of the winter. It waters the soil, and runs in that climate which is most congenial to English grains, and most agreeable to the cultivation of them. It is the river, more than any other, in my opinion, which must, in the natural progress of things, connect by its inland navigation, (now nearly completed one hundred and ninety measured miles up to Fort Cumberland, at the expense of 50,000*l.* sterling, raised by private subscription,) the Atlantic States with the vast region which is populating, beyond all conception, to the westward of it. It is designated by law for the seat of the empire; and must from its extensive course through a rich and populous country, become in time the grand emporium of North America. To these reasons may be added, that the lands within, and surrounding the district of Columbia, are as high, as dry, and as healthy as any in the United States; and that those above them, in the counties of Berkeley, in Virginia; Washington, in Maryland; and Franklin, in Pennsylvania, adjoining each other, at the distance of from sixty to one hundred miles from Columbia, are inferior in their natural state, to none in America. The general map of North America, which is herewith enclosed, will show the situation of this district of the United States; and on Evans's map of the middle colonies, which is on a larger scale, I have marked the district of Columbia with double red lines; and the counties adjacent to, and above it, of which particular mention has been made, with single red lines. The last-mentioned map shows the proximity of the Potomac, which is laid down from actual survey, to the western waters; and it is worthy of observation, that the Shenandoah, in an extent of one hundred and fifty miles from its confluence, through the richest tract of land in the state of Virginia, may, as is supposed, be made navigable for less than 2000*l.* The south branch of Potomac, one hundred miles higher up, and, for one hundred miles of its extent, may be made navigable for a much less sum. And the intermediate waters on the Virginia side in that proportion, according to their magnitude. On the Maryland side (the river Potomac, to the head of the north branch, being the boundary between the two States,) the Monocacy and Conogecheap, are capable of improvement to a degree which will be convenient and beneficial to the inhabitants of that State, and to parts of Pennsylvania.

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The local, or State taxes, are enumerated in the answers to the circular letter; and these, from the nature of the government, will probably decrease. The taxes of the general government will be found in the revenue laws, which are contained in the volume that accompanies this letter. "The Pennsylvania Mercury, and Philadelphia Price Current," are sent, that you may see what is, and has been, the prices of the several enumerated articles which have been bought and sold in this market at different periods, within the last twelve months.

An English farmer must entertain a contemptible opinion of our husbandry, or a horrid idea of our lands, when he shall be informed that not more than eight or ten bushels of wheat is the yield of an acre; but this low produce may be ascribed, and principally too, to a cause which I do not find touched by either of the gentlemen whose letters are sent to you, namely, that the aim of the farmers in this country, if they can be called farmers, is, not to make the most they can from the land, which is, or has been cheap, but the most of the labour, which is dear; the consequence of which has been, much ground has been *scratched* over and none cultivated or improved as it ought to have been: whereas a farmer in England, where land is dear, and labour cheap, finds it his interest to improve and cultivate highly, that he may reap large crops from a small quantity of ground. That the last is the true, and the first an erroneous policy, I will readily grant; but it requires time to conquer bad habits, and hardly any thing short of necessity is able to accomplish it. That necessity is approaching by pretty rapid strides.

If from these communications you shall derive information or amusement, it will be but a small return for the favours I have received from you; and I shall feel happy in having had it in my power to render them. As they result from your letter of the 25th of January, and are intended for your private satisfaction, it is not my wish that they should be promulgated as coming from me.

With very great esteem, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient and very humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

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The following circular letter was addressed to several gentlemen, the best informed of the agriculture, value of lands, and the prices of produce, &c. in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia; and the answers which have been received are thereunto subjoined.

CIRCULAR.

PHILADELPHIA, August 25, 1791.

DEAR SIR,

Some inquiries having been made of me by important characters, on the state of agriculture in America, comprehending its several relations, and intended to ascertain the value of our lands, with their yield in the several kinds of grain, grass, &c. the prices of farming stock; the prices of produce, &c. together with a list of the taxes in the different States, which may in any way affect the farmer: as an object highly interesting to our country, I have determined to render the most just and satisfactory answers that the best information I can obtain from different parts of the United States will enable me to give.

With this view, my confidence in your disposition and knowledge, leads me to offer to your inquiry, and to request from your intelligence, as early information as may be convenient, on the following heads:

1. The fee-simple prices of farming lands in such part of the State of . . . . . as are neither so near to large towns as to enhance their value, nor so distant from market as greatly to reduce it, or to make the situation inconvenient. In your answer to this inquiry, be pleased to note, generally, the situations, the soil, and if it be practicable, the proportions of arable, pasture, and wood-land.

2. The rents of the same lands, when leased, and generally, the terms of lease.

3. The average product of the same lands in wheat, rye, barley, oats, buck-wheat, beans, pease, potatoes, turnips, grasses, hemp, flax, &c. in the common mode of husbandry now practised.

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4. The average prices of these articles, when sold at the farm, or carried to the nearest market.

5. The average prices of good working horses, working oxen, milk cows, sheep, hogs, poultry, &c.

6. The average price of beef, veal, mutton, pork, butter, and cheese, in the neighbourhood, or at the nearest market towns.

7. The price of wrought iron, whence the price of farming utensils may be inferred.

8. A list of the taxes laid in the State of . . . . . .

The tendency of this inquiry, will be my apology for the trouble it may give to you.

I am, Dear Sir, with great regard,

Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ANSWERS TO THE PRECEDING LETTER.

YORK TOWN, Pennsylvania, Sept. 24, 1791.

SIR,

I considered myself as highly honoured by your favour of the 25th ult., and have taken all the pains in my power to give you the satisfaction you wish for. Being soon obliged to leave home for several weeks, I am somewhat pressed in time, but thought proper to write you the result of my inquiries and observations at this period, as I am sure you will be ready to make allowance for time, and other circumstances.

I cannot boast of elegance of style, but shall study to give you my ideas, founded as well upon the information I have received from others, as my own experience; and if any of my communications prove acceptable, or useful to you, I shall esteem

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myself highly rewarded. You were pleased to direct my inquiries chiefly towards York and Franklin counties, in this State; I have accordingly done so, and beg leave, in order to be better understood in my answers, to divide York county into three districts; and to call Franklin county the fourth district.

First District.—York Valley, beginning at the Susquehanna, at Wright's Ferry, and running through York county, including York Town, McAllister's Town, (alias Hanover,) and Petersburg, (alias Littlestown,) to the Maryland line, near the latter place. In length about thirty-nine miles, in breadth from three to four miles.

Second District.—The lands lying on the right of that valley, adjoining the same, and bounded by the river Susquehanna, the South Mountain, and the Maryland line.

Third District.—The barrens of York, including the lands on the south of York Valley, to the Maryland line.

Fourth District.—Franklin county.

Answer to query the first.—The fee-simple price of farming lands in the First District, may be averaged at 6*l.* 15*s.* per acre, (the dollar at 7*s.* 6*d.*) York Town lies 56 miles from Baltimore, 45 from Rock-run, 55 from Christiana-bridge, and 89 miles from the Philadelphia market. McAllister's Town is 18 miles from York, and 45 from Baltimore. Petersburg is seven miles from McAllister's, and 48 from Baltimore.

The soil of this valley is of the lime-stone kind, and is rather of a rich quality when fresh; it is generally covered with a black mould. Some spots, however, are inclined to gravel or slate, from the intrusion of a few small hills. The proportion of meadow ground to arable land, may be as one to twelve; more than one half of the arable land is, generally, in grass for pasture, sown every third year with red clover, or

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timothy seed. The settlements have been so rapid in this district since the year 1740, and the plantations are so close, as not to leave more than a fourth of wood. The farms appear nearly all accommodated with running springs. The inhabitants are mostly industrious and careful. They are advancing by a steady pace, and do not seem inclined to make many innovations upon the ancient practice of agriculture. Indeed they are already strong in property; their buildings, stock, and cattle, all show it. The timber, locust, walnut, wild-cherry, hickory, black oak, white oak, &c.

In the Second District, the fee-simple price of farming land may be averaged at 3*l.* and 10*s.* the acre. The soil is generally of a reddish colour, sometimes mixed with sand. We call it sandstone land through the greater part of the district. The state of agriculture there, is not so flourishing as in the first district, though the country is thickly settled, and you find plantations amongst the highest hills. The proportion of meadow to arable land may be somewhat greater than in the first district. The lands in many places naturally inclined to grass; the farmers here are not so careful of sowing grass-seed in their fields as those in the first district. The timber, walnut, black oak, white oak, poplar-chestnut, &c.

Third District.—This district is in general badly timbered, and the soil poor, of the gravelly or slate kind, and of a reddish cast, often mixed with sand; notwithstanding these disadvantages, more than half the barrens are under cultivation; the wood composed of dwarf white oak, chestnut, &c. The price per acre may be estimated at thirty-five shillings. What is a little remarkable, the inhabitants of this district have paid their taxes with more punctuality than most other parts of the State. Meadow land as to arable, may be as one to fifteen; pasture grounds little attended to. Before I proceed to Franklin, I would observe that the great South Mountain, or Blue Ridge as it is called in Virginia, divides York from Franklin county, and is from seven to ten miles in breadth; a very small proportion of it can be cultivated.

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Fourth District.—Franklin is a compact county, including Cumberland Valley, between the South and North Mountains for upwards of twenty-five miles, and part of the rich settlement of Conococheague and Antitem; few situations in America can claim a superior soil, it is nearly all lime-stone land. The quantity of meadow as to arable land, may be counted in the same proportion as in the first district of York county, about one half of the improvable land is cleared. The residue abounds in the largest locust, walnut, hickory, and oaks. The county town is Chambersburg, distant eighty miles from Baltimore, ninety from Georgetown, and twenty-four miles from Potomac river at Williamsport. Green Castle is a handsome village, situate eleven miles from Chambersburg, nearer the Potomac, on the road to Williamsport, and seventy-five miles from Baltimore, and seventy-nine from Georgetown. In several of the settlements, lands bear a high price, but when I came to average for the county, I estimated the acre at 4*l.*

Answer to query the second.—When you rent for money, you will seldom obtain more than four per cent. interest upon your purchase money.

The safest and most common mode is, I believe, to lease on the shares; where the lands are good, the lessor furnishes the one-half of the seed grain, and obtains from the tenant one-half of the produce of the grain, and implements. The grain delivered in the bushel, hay, &c. on the farm. By this way of leasing, we may have full six per cent. for the *purchase money*, or value of the lands. Plantations of inferior quality are leased on the thirds, that is, the lessor finds a third of the seed, or sometimes none, and obtains one-third of the produce of grain, hay, &c.

Lands formerly were purchased, and payment was to be made by instalments, without interest, and the sums so moderate, that an industrious man could discharge them in the course of ten years; few would lease, when they might purchase so cheaply. The vast quantity of back lands, induce a number to prefer actual purchase in a precarious situation, to leasing in the old settlements. However the descendants of the Germans are not as adventurous as some of their neighbours.

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They seem attached to peaceable habitations, and make the best tenants. Real property with us seems to obtain a more fixed value, and cannot be had without an adequate price.

Answer to query third,

YIELD TO THE ACRE, CALCULATED BY THE BUSHEL.

	Wheat	Rye	Barley	Spelta	Oats	Indian-corn	Buck-wheat	Potatoes	Turnips
1st district	15	20	25	35	30	25	25	75	150
2d district	12	17	20	25	25	25	20	70	130
3d district	10	12	15	20	20	15	15	60	75
4th district	15	20	25	35	30	25	25	75	150

Beans and peas are not raised in any great quantity; but the soil is, in general, not unfavourable to their culture. In the first district, they chiefly propagate the blue grass and clover, and the same may be said of part of Franklin county. In the residue of the district they depend on timothy meadows; the former will yield one ton and a half to the acre, the latter two tons. The blue grass and clover have a second crop, which goes to about two-thirds of the first. The lucern grass, I should incline to think, would do well here, choosing favourable situations; but I imagine it has not been sufficiently regarded. Some English grasses, brought over by the first settlers, also suit the soil.

Much hemp might be raised in these counties, were there proper encouragement; the foreign hemp gluts the markets, and there is not a sufficient protecting duty to spur the farmer to raise this useful article.

Our hemp lands would average a seven hundred weight to the acre (that is, what is called broken hemp); hackled flax may be calculated 100lbs. to the acre. I have

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endeavoured to average the productions, and believe I am rather under than over the quantity. In the fresh lands, or where they are moderately manured, we may safely add one-fourth more than I have set down. With European husbandry, much would, doubtless, be effected; yet there are a few instances at York and Lancaster, where between forty and fifty bushels of wheat have been raised to the acre. Barley yields greatly in the fresh or manured lands; but sufficient encouragement has not been given to raise it. The market for this grain has been very fluctuating, and wheat has been sown in its place. I estimated potatoes, perhaps, too low, for when there is only a reasonable care used, we may speak of upwards of an hundred bushels to the acre; but they are frequently carelessly planted, and not sufficiently attended to. I have known less than one acre produce upwards of four hundred bushels.

Answer to query fourth.—The towns I have mentioned in York and Franklin counties, carry on considerable trade, and purchase the produce of the country; but much the greater part of the wheat and flour is transported to the Baltimore market by the farmer.

Upon a review of six years past (exclusive of the year 1790,) I estimate the prices at the towns in the counties as follows:

	YORK COUNTY.			FRANKLIN COUNTY.		
	per Bshl.	per lb.	Ton.	per Bshl.	per lb.	Ton.
	s. d.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£ .s.
Wheat . . .	6 0	—	—	5 0	—	—
Rye . . .	3 6	—	—	3 6	—	—
Barley . . .	4 0	—	—	2 0	—	—
Oats . . .	2 0	—	—	2 3	—	—
Buck-wheat .	2 6	—	—	2 9	—	—
Indian-corn .	3 0	—	—	2 0	—	—
Speltz . . .	2 6	—	—	1 10½	—	—
Potatoes . .	2 0	—	—	0 9	—	—
Turnips . .	1 0	—	—	—	—	—
Hay . . .	—	—	3	—	—	2 5
Hackled-flax .	—	1 0	—	—	1 0	—
Hemp . . .	—	0 5	—	—	0 5	—

I have estimated the prices at the county market; you may allow a deduction of 4*d.* the bushel between the farm and the market; the difference as to flax and

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hemp will be very small. The expense of hauling hay depends on the distance. You may have a waggon and four horses for a day, in the winter, at 15*s*.

Answer to queries the fifth and sixth.

	YORK COUNTY.			FRANKLIN COUNTY.		
	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
A working horse	20	0	0	17	10	0
Pair of working oxen	17	0	0	15	0	0
A milk cow	4	10	0	4	5	0
Sheep	0	12	6	0	10	0
Hog	1	10	0	1	10	0
Turkey	0	2	6	0	2	6
Goose	0	2	6	0	2	0
Duck	0	1	0	0	0	9
Dung-hill fowl	0	0	6	0	0	6
Pork, per lb	0	0	3½	0	0	3
Beef	0	0	3	0	0	2
Mutton	0	0	4	0	0	3½
Veal	0	0	3	0	0	2½
Butter	0	0	8	0	0	8
New cheese	0	0	6	0	0	6

Answer to query the seventh.—There is a very great iron market at York: you may estimate the ton of wrought iron there 28*l*., and iron of a similar quality will command the same sum at Chambersburg.

Answer to query the eighth.—I herewith give you a list of taxes laid upon the county of York since the beginning of the Revolution, but they are all nearly discharged, and no new land-tax has been assessed by the State since the establishment of the general government. Pennsylvania has a considerable demand against the general government, and has a surplus revenue after paying all the debts, which is

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intended to be applied to the improvement of roads and navigation. No land-tax is expected to be levied by the State.

N. B. The demand of Pennsylvania against the general government, is not yet ascertained.

LIST OF TAXES LAID UPON YORK COUNTY BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

	In continental currency, which in 1781 depreciated to 150 for one in this State, and finally would not circulate.			In State-paper money.			In gold or silver.		
	£.	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
For 1777	12,721	4	9						
78	20,660	3	1						
79	324,863	1	3						
80	1174,447	18	10						
81				14,751	13	9	6,152	15	6½
82							35,569	7	8
83				19,140	1	1			
84				8,268	15	7			
85				6,902	10	11			
86				14,032	0	2			
87				6,786	4	11			
88				6,906	1	9			
89				6,826	2	8			

During the war, there were a few instances where some additional taxes were laid upon non-jurors or non-associators in the militia. A rate of sixpence in the pound upon personal property, will in general, be more than sufficient to pay the county tax. The road and poor-tax will not come so high.

By the laws of the Union we pay a duty upon foreign importations, and an excise on wine and spirits of all kinds. He that drinks must pay.

Franklin county may be nearly in the same condition as to taxes. From the foregoing statements, it must appear that this county, from climate, soil, and situation, is favourable to agriculture. The hand of industry, with a good system, is only wanting to bring it to perfection. I imagine that if our farmers were to cultivate

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fewer acres, and attend them well, they would succeed better; a greater regard should be had to collecting proper manure.

I have given you my sentiments respecting the two counties, and shall be ready, during the winter, to grant any further assistance in my power.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and most humble servant.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

FREDERICK, Maryland, November 10, 1791.

SIR,

After many endeavours for assistance, in answering your inquiry into the agriculture, &c. of Montgomery, Frederick, and Washington counties, I was obliged to rely principally upon my own observations and conjectures; for, as very few measure their fields or produce, it is mere guess work, and they commonly think and speak the best of their own affairs. I wish my conjectures had more certain foundation than they have, yet I flatter myself they will mislead no body to his injury; they certainly are not calculated for that purpose.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient servant.

THE PRESIDENT.

Montgomery County, Maryland.—The land in general, is what may be called with us of middling or rather inferior quality; it produces well when fresh cleared, but soon declines. It will sell according to quality, improvements, and the proportion left in wood, from 22*s.* 6*d.* to 5*l.* an acre; it has been very generally tended the first two years in tobacco, the third in Indian corn, and sown down in wheat. As common throughout the State, the tobacco is planted three feet distance each way, and the corn about six; so that it has become a general estimate, that four thousand

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eight hundred tobacco plants, or twelve hundred corn hills, take up an acre. The produce of tobacco is so various, as from four to ten plants to the pound, nor is that of Indian corn more certain. Such land as I have described, may be expected to yield for the first four crops, according to the seasons, a pound of tobacco for every six or seven plants planted, for some will fail. From fifteen to twenty bushels of Indian corn, and from nine to twelve bushels of wheat, to the acre. After this destructive course, the land is often again planted the next year with Indian corn, and sown down again with wheat or rye, without any assistance. The crops accordingly lessen, till the land becomes so exhausted that its produce scarcely pays for the ploughing. If the land was well cleared, and a crop of wheat well put in, in the first instance, I have no doubt but the yield might be from twelve to twenty bushels an acre, and sometimes more. I judge, that from half to two-thirds of Montgomery county is cleared; a good deal of it is much impoverished, or, as we call it, worn out; though a great proportion of it lies well, and very little of it sandy, so that it is capable of improvement. This county is, in general, plentifully watered with good springs and small streams. Very little hay is made in it, though there might be a good deal of watered meadow. Georgetown, a good port for shipping, in this county, has for some years past, been the best market for tobacco in the State, perhaps in America; and the Montgomery tobacco is in high reputation. The labour of the people has therefore been, I may say, wholly applied in the cultivation of tobacco. Fresh land produces the most certain crop, the easiest tended, and the best in quality. Baltimore lies convenient to some, and not very distant from any part of the county. There and at Georgetown, the surplus wheat is disposed of; it may in a course of years average about 7*s.* a bushel.

The stocks of cattle of all kinds are neither numerous or good, so that there is little flesh provision raised in this county for sale; nor is there any surplus of Indian corn, which is generally from 2*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a bushel. To say with us, that great quantities of tobacco are raised in any tract of country, implies without more, that the land is wasted, and no surplus of any thing made in it but tobacco. Some few plantations are not to be included within my general description; they are very good, are

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better managed, and would sell considerably higher. It may not be amiss to remark, that a part of the federal district lies within this county, and the federal city adjoins it. A great change may be expected to take place soon in the price of land, and the kind of cultivation.

Frederick county, Maryland, may be considered under a division of it into three parts. The Catoctin, and that part of the South Mountain which lie within it, the immediate space between those mountains, and the land lying to the eastward of Monocacy Valley, and Monocacy Valley itself. The mountain land is very thin and stony, though generally covered with wood and timber; there are spots, however, settled all through; such, and the parts near the better land, sell from 15*s.* to 27*s.* 6*d.* an acre. Amongst the second class, there are here and there plantations equal in quality, produce, and price, to the Monocacy Valley; the rest may be compared with the Montgomery land. Monocacy Valley is about thirty-five or forty miles in length, and eight or ten in breadth, with the river Monocacy running through it, and emptying into Potomac. The land is generally in small farms of one hundred to two hundred and fifty acres. There is a plenty of lime-stone, and not so much as to be prejudicial; there are many pretty good streams, and most of the proper situations are improved by good burr mills. Indeed there has been a rage for mills, so that the milling is well done, and on cheap terms. In this part of the county, as every where else, there is great choice; very little land sells for less than 3*l.* or more than 8*l.* an acre; the average may be said to be 6*l.* We are from to forty to fifty miles from Baltimore and Georgetown, where wheat may average 7*s.* a bushel; carriage to those markets costs usually 3*l.* a ton. With us, milk cows sell from 4*l.* to 6*l.*; draught horses fit for wagon or plough, 18*l.* to 25*l.*; smaller horses less, and exceeding good ones more. Prices at home, of wheat, 5*s.* 6*d.*; Indian corn, 2*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; rye, 3*s.* 6*d.*; oats, 2*s.* 3*d.*; barley, or more properly, bigg, 3*s.* 6*d.*; buck-wheat, 2*s.* Prices in the Fredricktown market, of grain, as at home; beef, 2½*d.* to 4*d.*; veal, 2*d.* to 3½*d.*; mutton, 3½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.; pork 27*s.* 6*d.* to 35*s.* per hundred; butter, 1*s.* The market is not considerable, and the same prices govern one amongst another in the county. Hay, 50*s.* to 3*l.* a ton.

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Wheat is reckoned a cash article, and therefore the chief that we cultivate for market; we also raise Indian corn, for consumption on the farms, seldom with a view for sale, and have lately increased in the consumption of it. We raise rye also, for the chief feed of our horses. Our management of our land is, in general, far from deserving praise, though not so reprehensible as Montgomery. I judge the produce of land of 6*l.* an acre, may be, nearly (fresh cleared) in wheat, twenty bushels.

In corn the same; in rye rather more.

Fresh cleared land, growing in corn, sowed in wheat, eighteen bushels.

Fresh land, a crop taken in wheat, and then planted in corn, twenty bushels.

Land not run hard, fallowed, and cropped in wheat once in three years, twenty bushels.

Fallowed, and cropped in wheat once in two years, fifteen bushels.

If manured moderately it will rise to twenty bushels.

If pushed every other year, without manuring, it will sink to ten bushels, and even lower. Land in general, with the same management, yields more rye than wheat, with this advantage, that rye leaves it lighter than wheat, and seems not to exhaust it so much. Strong land, of a proper soil, and well cultivated, will yield from thirty to forty bushels of barley, or rather bigg, to the acre. Rich fresh bottom, yields five or six hundred, and highly manured land six, eight, or nine hundred pounds of hemp to the acre; the cultivation of it has almost ceased. Flax is an uncertain crop. We break up our land in May or June, for fallow; begin to cross-plough it about the middle of July; harrow it across, plough in the seed, from three pecks to a bushel to the acre, and sometimes lightly harrow with the ploughing. We seldom plough with more than two horses, and esteem from the 10th to the 20th of September, the very best time for seeding; the quantity of seed near a bushel, I think I have found, and is generally agreed, is the best. We are not so well agreed, whether another ploughing is helpful or otherwise.

Speltz are sometimes sowed on land too wet for wheat, of which we have a little: the yield shelled is much about the same as wheat. We cultivate but few potatoes, or turnips, the latter is always sowed on fresh land, and never hoed; the potatoes, too,

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are commonly neglected; in particular instances, they have been well managed, the yield has been very encouraging, some say as far as five hundred bushels to the acre; but one gentleman, on whom I can depend, told me he had not made less than two hundred any one year, for several years together. Cabbages, parsnips, carrots, peas, and beans, have only been raised for family consumption: they succeed very well, as do almost all garden plants and fruits.

I have myself raised hops and madder: I believe they are with us of superior quality. A brewer told me he had bought the crop of five-eighths of an acre of hops, which turned out twelve hundred pounds; and several Germans, as well as one Englishman, acquainted with madder, have told me, it is as good here in two years as in Europe in three.

A small meadow is a common object with every farmer; it is of timothy, or natural grass; the timothy is mowed but once a year, the natural grass twice: either, that is esteemed good, produces, in the year, from a ton and an half to two tons an acre; but many, from unfavourable situation or neglect, turn out much less. We also often have clover patches; they are commonly cut and fed green, and seldom made into hay. Some few farmers, in the spring, sprinkle clover-seed on wheat, for pasturage, but it is rare, though every body approves it. Apples, pears, quinces, the morello and common cherries, are in high perfection, and with little trouble. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, and cherries, of the more delicious kinds, do not thrive so well here as near to the bay; yet these and plums, in all situations sometimes, and in some situations almost every year, are very good. We have, too, the black mulberry in plenty; exotic grapes thrive very well, and the native grape, of which there is great variety, have, in some instances, been much improved by culture.

The price of bar-iron is from 28*l.* to 30*l.* a ton; coarse iron-work from the smith double the price of the bar. Labourers, by the year, about 20*l.*; by the month, 40*s.* and found every thing but clothes. Reapers and mowers, by the day, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 9*d.* and found; a good reaper cuts, binds, and stacks, about three-quarters

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of an acre of wheat, of twenty bushels to the acre, a day; a mower, mows about his acre.

Washington county, Maryland, may also be divided in the same manner as Frederick. Conococheague Valley is about twenty miles in length and breadth, and has Conococheague and Antitem creeks running through it, and emptying in the Potomac. This valley has more lime-stone than Monocacy, is rather stronger, and its inhabitants say, exceeds it in produce; I believe it does. The prices of land, labour, hire, cattle of all kinds, as well as the kinds of produce, and manner of cultivation, is so much alike, that a particular enumeration would be but a repetition. It lies thirty or forty miles farther from the ports, and the grain is generally 6*d.* or 8*d.* lower. They too have a plenty of very fine mills, and their wheat is chiefly carried to market in flour. The other parts of Washington are much the same as the inferior parts of Frederick. The improvement of inland navigation on the Potomac, is likely to lessen greatly the expense of the carriage of the produce of these counties, and of course render the lands much more valuable.

It may be remarked, and seem strange, that I have estimated the produce of the richer and poorer fresh lands in their first crops not very different. I believe the fact will justify me, for land of middling and inferior quality, for the first two years, makes a very vigorous exertion.

I have confined myself chiefly to what I believe is the present actual general state of things; and when the price of land and of labour is considered, it will not seem wonderful that men will generally, as they are able, go into new purchases, rather than highly improve their own lands; but general as the practice is, it is not universal. There are instances among us, of thirty bushels of wheat, on an average of years, being raised to the acre, on particularly manured and highly cultivated spots; and, from essays, it is a common opinion, that good land, highly cultivated and manured, will produce from forty to fifty bushels of Indian corn to the acre, and even more.

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Mr. Edward Tilghman, now dead, had three squares of twenty acres each; he tilled one in tobacco. Tobacco was not the first object with him, it gave place to his wheat; on a particular day in September he cleared his ground of the tobacco, whether so ripe as he wished or not; he seeded it in wheat; he let nothing in till the May after harvest, unless his calves in the fall, and before hard frost. He, the next year, pastured twenty cows on the same field; they were turned in with discretion, twice or thrice a day for an hour or two at a time; he stabled his cows, and manured for tobacco; he thus went round many years. I was at his house upwards of thirty years ago, and saw those fields; it was about the fifth of May—one was then in very strong wheat—in the second, the white clover was considerably more than ancle high, with twenty cows, one or two more or less, feeding on it; and the third was ploughed up for tobacco, from which, he then told me, he had the preceding year made fourteen hundred pounds of butter. He has told me, that his tobacco has generally turned out one thousand pounds to the acre; and his nephew told me, some years, about twelve years after, that his wheat, for fifteen years, had averaged thirty-two bushels and a fraction to the acre. We have land in this neighbourhood, full as good, naturally, as Mr. Tilghman's, which is in Queen Anne's county; and the crops are rather more certain in this than in that part of the country. Indeed we are very seldom injured by mildews, scab, or blight; the last we scarcely know. Mr. Tilghman also has told me, that he had upwards of five hundred bushels of head turnips to the acre.

As soon as the wood is taken off our strong land, it is covered with white clover, which seems as natural to the soil as wood; if the land is not so light as to push the wheat into straw too much, twenty bushels an acre may be expected the first crop. Those who are acquainted with cultivation, know that manured land will produce more grain, or seed, than the richest fresh land, and may calculate for themselves what may be expected from fresh land, under good management.

The truth warrants it, and it may not be amiss to remark, that the District of Columbia is the point where the general productions meet in greater perfection than

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any other, and that from thence some improve or decline towards the east, and others towards the west, in at least as small distances as towards the north and south. Grass, grain, and fruits of all kinds are very good. To the southward and eastward, grass, wheat, rye, oats, and apples, are less perfect, or produced in less quantities. Cherries, of the more delicious kinds, peaches, apricots, nectarines, figs, and melons, improve. To the northward and westward the latter are not so perfect; the former improve, till the neighbourhood of this, and especially in the mountains. Apples are equal to those of the Jersies.

Our wheat is commonly sixty pounds; this year sixty-three, and some of it sixty-seven. Our grass, rye, and oats, better. Pursuing the west to the Alleghany, you come into a country equal, perhaps, to any in the world, for grass, rye, oats, potatoes, and flax, as well as excellent for wheat; it is generally said, that the oats weigh forty-six: wheat from sixty-four to sixty-seven. That the potatoes are abundant, of uncommon size, and excellent in quality, and that the hackled flax is generally a yard long; some of it is certainly so.

HYDE-PARK, Fairfax County, Virginia, Nov. 18, 1791.

DEAR SIR,

A desire of conversing with the most intelligent persons in my neighbourhood, and instituting a correspondence with others, on the subject of your inquiry, will, I hope, plead my excuse, in being so late in answering your letter of August. I never entertained very high opinions of our system of farming, but what I had is certainly lower than it was. Our farms are, in general, too large to admit of much nicety, and, I believe, it would be unhappy for us to have any great desire to be so, with our black labourers, and the more worthless wretches we employ to overlook them. The manner too, in which our attention has been engrossed by the cultivation of tobacco, and large quantities of Indian corn, has, no doubt, had some share in rendering us slovenly farmers. Having had, hitherto, plenty of fresh land for these articles, we

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have disregarded every means of improving our opened grounds, either by manure, or laying them down in grasses; but as we begin now to set some store by our woods, and tobacco has declined so much in value, that people are generally exchanging tobacco for wheat, I flatter myself, the face of our country will soon assume an appearance, that will not only do honour to our climate, but ourselves. Indeed it has long been evident to me, that our sagacious northern brethren, not only considered our climate as superior to their own, but our lands too as capable of being made so, from their constant annual emigrations among us. As we may be said to be entirely indebted to these for the best farms among us, it is very desirable that they should happen in a tenfold ratio.

Although, from a comparative view of the exports of wheat from the several States in the Union, it appears that considerably more of that article is annually exported from Virginia than from any of the professedly farming States; still it has scarcely, hitherto, been considered as a secondary object on our farms. Till very lately, the practice of fallowing grounds for wheat, was seldom followed, and even now, it is by no means so general as could be wished. The usual mode of sowing it has been, and is now, too generally, in our old corn-fields, when the Indian corn is laid by, and which are cultivated every second or third year, without receiving any manure, or being laid down in clover after the crop is taken off. Those who are considered as the best farmers, and fallow most, trust entirely to their ploughing. Their fields are too extensive for the manure raised from their stock, and we have as yet no other in use. I thought it necessary to premise thus much, generally, respecting our mode of agriculture, to prevent our climate and soil being unjustly blamed for what we alone are chargeable. It is applicable to the whole State, I believe. I shall now take your queries in their order, and consider first the lands in Fairfax county, which is situated on the river Potomac, and bounded by it for near forty miles. The lands here, are generally thin, and the soil a stiff clay. At a little distance from the river, they are rather hilly and broken. The pasturage in summer, is better than might be expected from the appearance of the land, for, notwithstanding all our bad management, our fields yield the white clover plentifully, and I am satisfied no grounds can turn out

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the red clover to better advantage, where they are well manured. Though the county cannot be considered as abounding so much in meadow lands as some others, yet there are few people but have them. On the river, the most valuable grounds for meadows, the Pocasons, are still unreclaimed; and, indeed, in every part of the county, some of the most valuable grounds for meadows, are still in their natural state. I cannot inform you of the proportion of meadow-land to the arable, for accuracy in these matters is out of the question in Virginia; nor of woodland to either: but I think I am not wrong with respect to the latter, in saying, that better than half the county is still in woods. In the upper parts of the county, from ten to twenty miles from the river, the soil is much intermixed with stones. The average yield of wheat, in the mode of agriculture which I have already mentioned was practised with us, is about six for one; in fallowed grounds, about eight and ten for one. The old tobacco grounds which have been well manured, will yield from twenty to thirty. The average yield of oats and rye, which have also but a poor chance, (being generally sowed in old worn out corn fields,) is from ten to fifteen, for one; buck-wheat from fifteen to twenty. Barley is not cultivated here. Indian corn, from ten to fifteen bushels an acre. As to pease, beans, potatoes, and turnips, our lands yield them very well; but as they are not raised for market in general, I cannot say what may be their average product per acre. It has ever appeared to me, that the farmers in Europe, who lay so much stress upon these articles in their writings, had our excellent substitute for them, Indian corn, they would only regard them as we do, for culinary purposes. The chief grass cultivated here is the timothy; the average product of it, per acre, is about a ton. It is certainly the best adapted to our hot suns, and particularly our slovenly management of any grass; and this, perhaps, is the best reason which can be given for our attending so little to any other. Of hemp, we raise scarce any in this county; and of flax, as we raise it only for our own domestic purposes, all I can say of it is, that it grows very kindly and plentifully. The fee-simple prices of lands at the distance of ten miles from the river and town of Alexandria, is from twenty to forty shillings per acre, according to quality. It is remarkable, that lands in no respect superior, on the opposite side of the river in Maryland, and equally distant from the river, sell currently at 4*l.* and 5*l.* per acre.

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I know not how such a difference is to be accounted for, but from the greater degree of population in proportion to their country. The same circumstance must, I suppose, account for the lands in Virginia being generally so much cheaper, though equal in quality, and possessing a milder climate than the lands in the northern States. The rents of our lands have increased much within these few years. From the first settlement of the country, till lately, it was the practice to rent them on leases for two and three lives, at so much tobacco a hundred acres; very often not more than two hundred pounds of tobacco an hundred; at present, however, from the uncertain price of tobacco, the rents in that article are become unusual; so that the common mode of renting is now, either by the year, or for a term of ten or twenty years, and at the rate of 8*l.* to 10*l.* an hundred. This mode is preferred by the tenants, from an idea which, I believe, to be natural to the human mind, that of becoming one day lords of their own little territory. I think it is often cherished by our people, to an excess which frequently injures them.

The lands in Prince William county and Fauquier, from twenty to thirty miles from Dumfries (a town on the Potomac, about thirty miles below Alexandria) are, I think, much superior to the lands in Fairfax, being both more level and richer, with a greater quantity of meadow land, though they make still less of it than we do; their system of farming is, certainly worse than in Fairfax. Hence, their yield of the several kinds of crops, though on better land, does not average more than with us. They have been, and are still, more unfortunately attached to tobacco than we have been. The soil of both these counties is much alike, being of a reddish clay; at the distance of two or three feet from the surface, a thin stratum of a stone resembling slate is found; hence, their springs are not so abundant, nor is the water as good as could be wished; but when wells have been dug, the water has been found as good as any where. The average fee-simple prices of their lands, are from 20*s.* to 30*s.* an acre; the terms of rents are much as they are in Fairfax.

The county of Loudoun lies on the Potomac, above Fairfax, and is, perhaps, the best farming county in the State, being thickly settled with Quakers and Germans,

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from Pennsylvania. The lowest corner of the county is about ten miles from tide-water, and it extends up the river with the meanders thereof, upwards of fifty miles. It is well supplied with springs, water-courses, and meadows; what are called the bottom lands on the river, are very rich; but the soil throughout the county is generally stiff, and of a reddish cast. The upper parts of the county are mountainous; better than half the county is in woods, as is also the case with the two last mentioned counties. Much more attention is paid to meadows here, than in either of the counties yet mentioned, it being the first object, in general, in every settlement, and their chief concern afterwards. The bottom lands on the river sell from 3*l.* to 5*l.* an acre; in the interior part of the county from 1*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* an acre. There are many leases for lives in this county, given some years ago, by gentlemen holding quantities of lands, at 2*l.* and 5*l.* an hundred acres; but the common mode of renting, on the expiration of leases, is for a term of years not exceeding, in general, twenty-one, and from 10*l.* to 20*l.* an hundred acres. It is also common, in many instances, to rent, for one-third of the produce. The average produce of wheat per acre, is from eight to ten bushels on their common lands, which, like those in Fairfax, have been much exhausted. Their fresh, or river lands, produce from ten to fifteen bushels; the average produce of Indian corn is about fifteen bushels; of rye, twenty; speltz, thirty; oats, twenty-five; and barley thirty, though the last is chiefly raised for the purposes of home-brewing, and by the Germans. They manufacture most of their own linen and woollens in this county, and distil most of the spirits used, from rye, peaches, and apples, and make a considerable quantity of cider for market: they also make many waggons for sale, and almost all iron utensils for their own use. The meadows yield them better than a ton an acre. I forgot to mention above, the produce of buck-wheat; I am told that the Germans and Quakers frequently raise it from thirty to sixty bushels an acre. What I have already observed with respect to the smaller produce of the farm, peas, potatoes, &c. must suffice for all the counties I have to mention. I have no doubt but the Germans and Pennsylvanians of Loudoun would reap more profit from them than we do; but their distance from market has hitherto prevented them from raising them for sale, and we seldom attend to what is consumed on the farm.

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I shall now proceed to Berkeley, which, in point of fertility, is without doubt, the richest county in the State. This county lies also on the Potomac, and is penetrated by the Shenandoah, wich empties into that river. The lands here, which are called the Valley, running parallel with the Shenandoah, and between that and the North Mountains, may be divided into four classes: the first quality sells at 4*l.* an acre, second at 3*l.*, third at 2*l.*, and fourth at 1*l.* 10*s.* in fee-simple. The mode of renting lands is here too, either by the year, or a short term of years, as there are no lands which rise faster in value. The first quality rents from 20 to 30*l.* an hundred acres; the other qualities in proportion; and none for less than 10*l.* The lands of the first quality are considered as too rich for wheat, and, in the general method of seeding, do not succeed so well as those of the second, being more liable to fall, and the rust. It is probable this may proceed from their not giving it seed in proportion to its strength, or from their sowing it as early as their other grounds. That very rich grounds do not succeed so well on early sowing, I am convinced, from several trials which I have been witness to, by a neighbour of mine on a rich island. This spot, which, when sowed in August, would yield scarcely any thing but straw, when sowed in the latter end of October, or first of November, yielded abundantly. The second quality produces from fifteen to twenty bushels, when fallowed; the third from ten to twelve; and the fourth from eight to ten. The first rate lands produce from forty to fifty bushels of oats per acre, and rye in proportion; the other qualities from twenty to forty. Indian corn from twenty to forty bushels, according to the quality of the land, and buck-wheat from thirty to sixty. Barley would, no doubt, succeed well on such lands; but I am informed that they raise none. The natural meadows are certainly superior to any to be met with any where; what is called the English blue grass, flourishes in the greatest luxuriancy, and is common throughout the county. The average crop of timothy is nearly two tons an acre. The soil of the best lands is dark and fine; of the second lighter, and intermixed with soft stones; that of the third and fourth rates still lighter. The whole surface of the ground, when cleared, is covered with blue grass. I must now observe, with respect to the counties of Loudoun and Berkeley, that the completion of the navigation of the Potomac, (which we expect will happen, at the farthest, in two years,)

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will be attended with immense benefits to them. Their produce, of every sort, will be brought to market on as cheap terms as those who live at the distance of eight or ten miles. This circumstance, added to the superiority of their lands, certainly renders them the most desirable of any counties in the State; and when it is considered that they already have the two flourishing towns of Alexandria and Georgetown for their markets, and an act of Congress for establishing their permanent residence between these places, I think it cannot be doubted that they are the most eligible situations in the Union. In the subjoined table, you have the prices current, as accurately as I could ascertain them.

Prices current, in Virginia money, 6*s.* the dollar. Best horses, from 20*l.* to 25*l.*; second rate, from 12*l.* to 20*l.*; small horses may be bought much lower. Oxen from 8*l.* to 15*l.* a pair; steers unbroke, at 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*; best milk cows at 4*l.*; second-rate at about 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*; veal, at 2*d.* to 2½*d.* and 3*d.* per lb.; mutton, at 3*d.* per lb.; pork, from 20*s.* to 30*s.* per 100lbs.; butter from 6*d.* to 8*d.* per lb.; cheese, from 4*d.* to 6*d.* per lb.; tallow, at 8*d.* per lb. Sheep, from 6*s.* to 15*s.*; hogs, 12 months old, from 12*s.* to 15*s.* according to size; beef, at 2*d.* to 3*d.*; geese, from 1*s.* to 2*s.*; turkeys, 2*s.*; ducks, from 6*d.* to 9*d.*; hens, from 6*d.* to 8*d.*; chickens, from 3*s.* to 4*s.* per dozen.

Wheat, about 4*s.* 6*d.* per bushel; buck-wheat, 2*s.*; corn, 2*s.*; beans and peas, 3*s.* to 4*s.*; turnips and potatoes, from 9*d.* to 1*s.*

Hackled flax, from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.; hemp from the break, from 28*s.* to 30*s.* per 100lbs.; iron, from 25*l.* to 27*l.* per ton.

In the county of Fairfax, from its vicinity to market, several of the above articles will average higher.

RATES OF THE TAXES ON PROPERTY.	*s.*	*d.*
On land, for every 100*l.* valuation	7	6
On Negroes, each above 12	2	6
On horses, each	0	6
On chariots, per wheel	9	6
On riding chairs, per wheel	3	0

Parish levies from 10 to 30lbs. of tobacco per titheable.

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County taxes much the same. The two last vary each year, according to the number of poor to be supported, and the number of criminals; but for the latter we are reimbursed by the public.

Our taxes have also been diminishing every year since peace, so that no country has less reason to complain of public burthens at present.

The above is a list of our State taxes. The only tax imposed by the general government, and which the farmer feels, is the tax on stills; this is about 6*d.* a gallon. Though, from its novelty, it has excited some murmurs, I cannot think it can be considered as unreasonable, or improper, by those who reflect either on the great injuries produced by the cheapness of distilled liquors among us, or the excessive profits made by the county distillers.

I cannot conclude, without regretting that I have not been able to find you a more accurate account, in many particulars. I flatter myself it is at least a faithful one: I have used my best endeavours to make it so. It has certainly not been in my power to pay any compliments to our farmers for their management.

I am, dear Sir,

With the greatest respect,

Your most obedient servant.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE FOLLOWING DETACHED INFORMATION IS COMMUNICATED BY PERSONS ON WHOSE KNOWLEDGE AND ACCURACY RELIANCE MAY BE PLACED.

The writer hereof is best acquainted with that tract of land which crosses Virginia, from northeast to southwest, by the names of the Bull-run Mountains, South Mountains, and Green Mountains, and is generally six or eight miles wide, one half of which is the mountain itself, and therefore steep; the residue lies at the foot, on

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each side, in large waving hills, perfectly accessible to the plough. It is of a dark red colour, the richest of it is a pure mould, or loam, without the least mixture of sand or grit, though often a good deal of broken stone; when first cleared of its timber, it lies loose for about a foot deep, that is to say, as far down as the frosts have penetrated, but below that, for many feet, the earth is still the same, but hard, as having never yet been opened by the frost; when it has been turned up by the plough and has been exposed to the frost a winter or two, it is nearly as rich as the original first soil. This land is excellent for wheat and rye, but yields poorly in oats; for Indian corn it is middling. The fruits which abound, are apples, peaches, and cherries. The country perfectly healthy, and the climate more moderate in summer than that below, and in winter than that above. Most of the parcels of land held by individuals, have been so laid out, as to contain about one-third of the first quality, as above described; one-third of a middling quality; and one-third of barrens well timbered. The husbandry is, in general, very slovenly; under such as it is, the lands of the first quality will produce thirty bushels of wheat to the acre, when fresh, and being tended alternately in wheat and Indian corn, (the latter of which is a great exhauster,) without ever being rested or manured, they fall at length down to eight or ten bushels the acre. The soil of middling quality will yield twelve or fifteen bushels of wheat the acre, when fresh, and fall down to about eight. The grasses which have been found to succeed best, are red clover and orchard grass; green sward does well also; only one good cutting of these can be counted on, unless the ground can be watered. A tract consisting of the three qualities before mentioned, in equal quantities, in that part which lies near the Rivanna river, say about Charlotteville, will sell for about 22*s.* 6*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.* sterling the acre, on an average; it will be more or less, in proportion as there is more or less of the best or worst qualities; produce is water-borne from hence to the tide-waters seventy miles distant. Advancing north-eastwardly along the same mountains, these lands are dearer, though their produce cannot be water-borne till they reach the Potomac. Going south-westwardly along the same mountains, lands become cheaper. Where they cross the Fluvanna, or James river, they are about two-thirds of the price

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before mentioned; and from that part their produce may also be water-borne to tide-waters one hundred and thirty miles distant.

Ordinary prices about Charlotteville are as follows:

A labouring negro man is hired by the year, for 9*l.* sterling, his clothes, and food.

A good plough-horse costs 10*l.* to 12*l.* sterling.

A cow, 30*s.*; a sheep 6*s.*; a sow 10*s.*; a goose, or a turkey, 2*s.*; a dung-hill fowl, 6*d.*

A bushel of wheat, 3*s.*; of rye, 22½*d.*; of Indian corn 1*s.* 6*d.*

Beef in autumn, and pork in winter, 16*s.* the 100lbs.; bacon, 6*d.* to 8*d.* the lb.

Hay, 45*s.* the ton.

August 3, 1791.

FROM MR. POWELL, PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.

DEAR SIR,

Agreeably to your request, I have now the pleasure to send you an extract of my letter to Arthur Young, Esq., relative to the prices of the following articles in Pennsylvania, viz.

Wheat, per bushel, 6*s.* to 6*s.* 4*d.*; rye, 3*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.*; Indian corn, 2*s.* 6*d.*; oats, 1*s.* 8*d.*; barley, 4*s.*; clover hay, per ton, 4*l.* 10*s.*; beef, per 100lbs. 25*s.*; pork, 27*s.* 6*d.*; a good working horse, 20*l.*; a pair of good working oxen, 900lbs. each, 20*l.* to 24*l.*; a milk cow and calf, 5*l.* to 6*l.*; store sheep, by the flock, 10*s.* to 15*s.*; wool, ——; dressed flax, ——; bricks, per thousand, 22*s.* 6*d.*; stone-lime, per bushel, 11*d.* to 1*s.*; cultivated farms of good land, in the old counties, not within twenty miles of Philadelphia, extremely various; the average, at random, perhaps, 5*l.* per acre.

The par of exchange with Great Britain, 166 two-thirds.

An English guinea passes current at 35*s.*

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With respect to taxes, the second object of inquiry, my information is as follows; and I believe it may be relied on:

	Acres in each Farm.	Poor Tax.	County Tax.	Road Tax.
Franklin county, ...	360	none	none	35*s.*
York county, ...	500	none	40*s.*	30*s.*
Northumberland county,	300	none	10*s.*	30*s.*
Fayette county, ...	364	15*s.*	10*s.*	none
Cumberland county, . .	650	2*s.* 6*d.*	60*s.*	27*s.*
Chester county, ...	500	35*s.*	70*s.*	35*s.*
Delaware county, ...	450	30*s.*	60*s.*	60*s.*
Washington county, . .	300	none	20*s.*	12*s.*
Philadelphia county, . .	80	16*s.* 10*d.*	22*s.* 5*d.*	15*s.* 2*d.*

The foregoing are the taxes on the farms, containing the number of acres mentioned in the list in the different counties. The respective sums make the aggregate of the taxes upon each farm in the respective counties.

It is here to be observed, that there are farms in the oldest, as well as in the newest counties, set down in the list. If the information appears to you in any respect deficient, I will endeavour to procure such as may be more satisfactory; though I think what is herein contained, must convince Mr. Y. that our present taxes are very moderate.

If on this, or any other subject, I can be of any use to you, I beg that you will freely lay your commands on,

Dear Sir,

Your affectionate,

And obliged humble servant.

PHILADELPHIA, October 24, 1790.

HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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PHILADELPHIA, June 18, 1792.

SIR,

Your letter of the 18th of January, was received about a fortnight ago. For the Annals, which you have had the goodness to send me, I pray you to accept my thanks. No directions having accompanied the second set, and presuming they were intended for the Agricultural Society in this city, I have, in your name, presented them to that body.

As far as it is in my power, I will endeavour to solve the doubts which are expressed in your queries, contained in the above letter: and first, "Labour is so slightly touched on, that I know not how to estimate it."

The information on this, as well as on other points of my last communication, was given in transcripts of the letters I had received in answer to certain queries, hastily submitted to some intelligent gentlemen of my acquaintance, in the state of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. If, therefore, the article of labour was not sufficiently enlarged upon; or, if there appeared too great a diversity in the price of this article; in that of land; and of other things, to be easily reconciled and understood; you must ascribe the inconsistency, or omission, to that cause, and to the habits and value which is set on these things in the different States, and in different parts of the same State. South of Pennsylvania, hired labour is not very common, except it be at harvest, and sometimes for cutting grass. The wealthier farmers perform it with their own black servants, whilst the poorer sort are obliged to do it themselves. That labour in this country is higher than it is in England, I can readily conceive. The ease with which a man can obtain land in fee, beyond the mountains, to which most of that class of people repair, may be assigned as the primary cause of it. But high wages is not the worst evil attending the hire of white men in this country; for being accustomed to better fare than, I believe, the labourers of almost any other country, adds considerably to the expense of employing them; whilst blacks, on the

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contrary, are cheaper, the common food of them, even when well treated, being bread made of Indian corn, butter-milk, fish, (pickled herrings) frequently, and meat now and then; with a blanket for bedding. In addition to these, ground is often allowed them for gardening, and privilege given them to raise dung-hill fowls for their own use. With the farmer who has not more than two or three negroes, little difference is made in the manner of living between the master and the man; but far otherwise is the case with those who are owned in great numbers by the wealthy; who are not always as kind, and as attentive to their wants and usage, as they ought to be; for by these they are fed upon bread alone, which does not, on an average, cost more than seven dollars a head per annum, (about 32*s*. sterling.)

From these data, in aid of my last communications, you will be able to form an idea of the cost of labour in this country. It varies, however, in the different States, as I have already observed, and sometimes in the same State; but may be said to vibrate with white men, between ten and fifteen pounds; and for black men, between eight and twelve pounds sterling, per annum, besides their board. No difficulty, I should conceive, would be formed in obtaining those of either description, on the terms here mentioned; but I do not advance this with certainty, not having been in the habit of hiring any myself, for several years past. Blacks are capable of much labour, but having (I am speaking generally) no ambition to establish a *good* name, they are too regardless of a *bad* one, and of course require more of the master's eye than the former. Formerly, I have given to skilful and careful cradlers, a dollar a day, during harvest, which was a sixth more than the usual price; but then, I knew the men, and that they would oblige themselves to cut *clean* and lay *well*, four acres of wheat a day, (if it did not stand very heavy on the ground); or, if I preferred it, they would cut by the acre, paying them at the rate of a dollar for every four acres. There are men, who will rake and bind as fast as the cradlers will cut the grain, but to do this is deemed hard work, and when done, entitles them to cradlers' wages. These people eat three times a day, (once, perhaps, of milk,) and are allowed a pint of spirits each man. A barn-floor, with straw and a blanket, serves them at harvest for lodging.

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When I observed in a former letter, that "all our labour was performed by negroes," I must have alluded to the custom in Virginia, the State in which I then lived, and from which I wrote; but my last communication to you was on a more extensive scale, comprehending the practices and prices of Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as different parts of Virginia; which (latter) is a State of great extent, differing much in its products and culture.

The English statute acre is the measure by which we have hitherto bought and sold land; and the price of land, as handed to you in my last, includes buildings, fences, arable, meadow, in short, the improvements of every sort appertaining to the tract on which they are placed. To a stranger at a distance, this aggregate mode of estimating the value of a farm is, it must be confessed, dark and unsatisfactory; but to the parties present, who see and examine every thing, and judge for themselves, it is quite immaterial. The seller warrants the title and quantity which he sells, and both form an opinion of the total worth of the premises. It rarely happens, however, that buildings and other improvements are estimated by the purchaser at near what they cost the seller, especially on old farms, which have been a good deal worked; the received opinion being, that fresh land, without improvements, is more to be desired, than worn and much abused land is, with such as are usually found thereon: but this is to be considered as a general, not an invariable rule; for the better and more attentive farmers keep their farms in high order, and value the improvements accordingly. Never having been in England, I ought not to hazard an opinion, or attempt a comparison between the soil of that country and this, in their virgin and unimproved state; but from what I know of the one, and have heard of the other, I should decide in favour of the latter, at a distance from the seaboard; which, from the high lands of the Neversink (in East Jersey) to Florida inclusively, is flat, and with but few exceptions sandy, and generally of mean quality. From the falls of the rivers to the mountains, which is generally from sixty to one hundred miles, and above the latter—except the craggy hills and mountains which lie between the eastern and western waters—the best lands are to be found. They are strong, and after having been used and abused in a shameful

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manner, will, with a little repose, get covered with white clover. The upper country is healthiest also.

You seem surprised, and no wonder, to hear that many of our farmers, if they can be so called, cultivate much ground for little profit, because land is cheap, and labour is high; but you will remember, that when I informed you of this fact, I reprobated, at the same time, both the practice and principle. The history, however, of it is this; a piece of land is cut down, and kept under constant cultivation, first in tobacco, and then in Indian corn (two very exhausting plants), until it will yield scarcely any thing; a second piece is cleared, and treated in the same manner; then a third, and so on, until probably there is but little more to clear. When this happens, the owner finds himself reduced to the choice of one of three things—either to recover the land which he has ruined, to accomplish which, he has perhaps neither the skill, the industry, nor the means; or to retire beyond the mountains; or to substitute quantity for quality, in order to raise something. The latter has been generally adopted, and, with the assistance of horses, he *scratches* over much ground, and seeds it, to very little purpose, as you may suppose, and have been informed; for I presume an English farmer would bestow more labour on *one* acre, by deep and frequent ploughings, besides the dressings he gives to the land, than the other does on *five* acres. It is but justice, however, to Pennsylvania, to declare, that her husbandry (though not perfect) is much better, and her crops proportionably greater. The practice above-mentioned applies more particularly to the tobacco States, which, happily, are yielding more and more every year to the growth of wheat; and as this prevails the husbandry improves. Instances could be enumerated, and where no extraordinary dressings or management has been used, of land yielding from thirty to forty bushels of wheat per acre, that has been very much exhausted.

Your mode of calculating the taxes in this country being unusual with us, I may not accurately understand; and as the Virginia method was, if I recollect rightly, detailed in my former accounts, I know not how to give you a more distinct idea of them, than by exhibiting the items of the specific charges on every species of taxable

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property, viz. on land, negroes, stock, &c. This, as it respects an estate in Virginia, with which I am very well acquainted, I am enabled to do, and will do. We have a road-tax besides, but it is light, and, in most of the States, paid by a contribution of labour, which rarely exceeds two days in the year for each male labourer. Dutiable articles is a distinct tax, the quantum of which depends upon the consumption, upon the disposition of the consumer: with the aid, therefore, of the laws (which I sent you) every man can calculate, better than I am able to do for him, the amount of his own expenditures in this way. An additional duty, or excise, was imposed last session, and this being now sent, will, if I am not mistaken (with what was mentioned in my former communications) bring every tax, direct and indirect, to your view, to which property in this country is subjected, either by the general government, or the laws of the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, to which the observations have been confined.

Beef, and other meats, grain of all sorts, and flour, butter, cheese, and other things, in quantities to make them an object, are always, I conceive, in demand; and are sought after by the purchasers. The sale of lesser articles, at a distance from market-towns, may sometimes stick on hand, but rarely, I believe, forego a sale, if they are worth the transportation.

Sheep thrive very well in the middle States, though they are not exempt from diseases, and are often injured by dogs; and more so as you approach the mountains, by wolves. Were we to use horses less, and oxen more, on our farms (as they do in the New England States,) we should, unquestionably, find our account in it; yet, strange as it may seem, few are in the practice of the latter; and none push the raising of sheep to the extent they might, and ought to do. The fact is, we have, in a manner, every thing to learn that respects neat and profitable husbandry.

Bakewell's breed of sheep are much celebrated, and deservedly, I presume; but if entrusted to a common bailiff (or with us is called an overseer), they would, I should apprehend, soon degenerate, for want of that care and attention which is necessary to

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preserve the breed in its purity. But the great impediment is the British statutes; these discourage men of delicacy, in this country, from attempting what might involve the master of a vessel in serious consequences, if detected in the breach of them. Others, however, less scrupulous, have attempted to import English rams with success, and by this means, our flocks, in many places, are much improved; mine, for instance, though I never was concerned, directly nor indirectly, in the importation of one, further than by buying lambs which have descended from them.

Our modes—system we have none—are so different from yours, generally speaking, and our business being carried on so much within ourselves, so little by hiring, and still less by calculation, that I frankly confess to you, I am unable to solve your query respecting sheep-walks, or how many sheep an acre of woodland pasture would support. I shall have pleasure, at all times, as far as I possess the means, or can command them, to give you every information that can contribute to your own satisfaction or that of a friend; but I am so thoroughly persuaded of my inability to throw new lights upon any branch of husbandry, in a country where it is so well understood as in England, and that any thing I could write to you on that subject would only serve to expose the defective practice of my countrymen, and be considered as the beacon of our ignorance, that I am rather disinclined to see any production of mine in a work where so much useful information is conveyed to the public, as is to be found in your Annals of Agriculture.

With very great esteem,

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

G. WASHINGTON.

P. S. June 21st. I have not yet received the account of taxes I promised you, and for which I had written to Virginia; but I will send it by the first conveyance after its arrival.

This letter goes by Mr. Pinckney, Minister from the United States to the Court of

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London, who, being detained a day or two longer than was expected by the vessel in which he is to embark, has given me an opportunity of asking Mr. Jefferson (who is well acquainted with the south-western parts of Virginia, near Charlotteville,) and Mr. Peters (one of the best farmers in the state of Pennsylvania, about six miles from this city,) to give me their sentiments on the several queries contained in your letter. These you will find inclosed herewith, in their own words.* Mine, and each of theirs, are written without any previous consultation, and may be considered (my estate in the neighbourhood of which I am best acquainted, lying about midway between theirs) as the opinions of men living north, south, and in the centre of the district, of which an account was given to you in my communications of the 4th of December last.

* On applying to Colonel Hamilton, for the statement mentioned in Mr. Peters's letter, he put into my hands, together with the statement, several communications which were made to him last year, by some of the most respectable farmers in this part of the country, in consequence of an application from him, for information on certain points respecting farms; and, as they appeared to contain some matters worth attention, I had them copied, and they are also inclosed.

NOTES BY MR. JEFFERSON ON MR. YOUNG'S LETTER.

Paragraph 3. "Is the labour of negroes, at 9*l.* sterling to be commanded in any amount?" If taken by the year, it may be commanded in any amount, but not if wanted on particular occasions only; as for harvest, for particular dressings of the land, &c.

Par. 4. The labour of a negro, Mr. Young reckons cent. per cent. dearer than the labour of England. To the hirer of a negro man, his hire will cost 9*l.* and his subsistence, clothing, and tools, 6*l.*, making 15*l.* sterling, or at the most, it may sometimes be 18*l.* To the owner of a negro, his labour costs as follows: suppose a negro man, of twenty-five years of age, costs 75*l.* sterling; he has an equal chance to live

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thirty years, according to Buffon's tables, so that you lose your principal in thirty years; then say,

	£	s.
Interest of 75*l.* annually	3	15
One thirtieth annually of the principal	2	10
Subsistence, clothes, &c. annually	6	0
	£12	5

There must be some addition to this, to make the labour equal to that of a white man, as I believe the negro does not perform quite so much work, nor with as much intelligence. But Mr. Young reckons a labouring man in England 8*l.* and his board 16*l.*, making 24*l.*

Par. 5. "In the instances of mountain land, the expressions seem to indicate waste land, unbuilt and uninclosed." If Mr. Young has reference here to the notes which Th. J. gave to the President, on the subject of mountain lands, the following explanation is necessary. The lands therein contemplated, are generally about one-half cleared of the timber which grew on them; say all the land of the first quality, and half that of the middling quality: this half is, for the most part, inclosed with rail fences, which do not last long (except where they are of chestnut), but are easily repaired or renewed. The houses on them, for the use of the farm, are so slight and of so little worth, that they are thrown into the bargain, without a separate estimate. The same may be said of the farmer's house, unless it be better than common. When it is of considerable value, it adds to the price of the land, but by no means its whole value. With respect to the soil, I saw no upland in England comparable to it. My travels there, were from Dover to London, and on to Birmingham, making excursions of twenty or thirty miles each way. At Edgehill, in Warwickshire, my road led me over a red soil, something like this, as well as I recollect; but it is too long ago to speak with certainty.

Par. 7. "That, in America, farmers look to labour much more than to land, is new to me;" but it is a most important circumstance. Where land is cheap and

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rich, and labour dear, the same labour spread in a slighter culture over one hundred acres, will produce more profit than if concentrated by the highest degree of cultivation on a small portion of the lands. When the virgin fertility of the soil becomes exhausted, it becomes better to cultivate less, and well; the only difficulty is, to know at what point of deterioration in the land, the culture should be increased, and in what degree.

Par. 10. "Can you sell your beef and mutton readily?" The market for them, fresh and in quantity, is not certain in Virginia. Beef, well salted, will generally find a market; but salted mutton is, perhaps, unknown.

Par. 11. "Mutton dearer than beef." Sheep are subject to many diseases, which carry them off in great numbers. In the middle and upper parts of Virginia, they are subject to the wolf, and in all parts of it to dogs: these are great obstacles to their multiplication. In the middle and upper parts of the country, the carcass of the beef is raised on the spontaneous food of the forests, and is delivered to the farmer in good plight in the fall, often fat enough for slaughter; hence its cheapness. Probably, however, sheep properly attended to, would be more profitable than cattle, as Mr. Young says. They have not been attended to as they merited.

Par. 13. Mr. Young calculates the employment of 5040*l.* worth of land, and 1200*l.* farmer's capital, making an aggregate capital of 6240*l.* in England, which he makes yield five per cent. extra, or ten per cent. upon the whole. I will calculate, in the Virginia way, the employment of the same capital, on a supposition of good management, in the manner of the country.

I. Supposing negro labourers to be hired.
II. Supposing them to be bought.

I. Suppose labourers to be hired; one half men, at 18*l.*; the other half women, at 14*l.* for labour, subsistence, and clothing; (I always mean sterling money.)

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	£	s.	d.
Interest of 4160*l.* for 3310 acres of land, at 25*s.* per acre,	208	0	0
Interest of $\frac{3000}{4160}$ for farmer's capital of stock, tools, &c.	104	0	0
Taxes, at 7*d.* the acre (I do not know what they are,)	96	10	0
Hire of 33 labourers, at 16*l.*	528	0	0
	£936	10	0

PRODUCE TO BE SOLD ANNUALLY.

Wheat, 6600 bushels, at 3*s.*	£990			
Meat, and other articles, at 5*l.* for each labourer,	165	£1155	0	0
Net profit over and above the five per cent. above charged,		219	10	0
Add annual rise in the value of lands,		165	10	0

Real profit, over and above the five per cent. above charged, £385 which is 6½ per cent extra, or 11⅓ per cent. on the whole capital.

II. Suppose labourers to be bought, one half men, and one half women, at 60*l.* sterling, on an average.

		£	s.	d.
Interest of 3125*l.* for 2500 acres of land at 25*s.*		156	5	0
Interest of 1562*l.* 10*s.* farmer's capital of stock, utensils, &c.		78	2	6
Interest of $\frac{1400}{6187}{}_{10}$ for purchase of 25 labourers,	£ 75			
Subsistence, clothes, &c.	150	225	0	0
I allow nothing for losses by death, but, on the contrary, shall presently take credit four per cent. per annum, for their increase over and above keeping up their own numbers.				
Taxes, at 7*d.* the acre,		72	18	4
		£532	5	10

PRODUCE TO BE SOLD ANNUALLY.

Wheat, 5000 bushels, at 3*s.*	£750			
Meat and other articles, at 5*l.* for each labourer,	125	875	0	0

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Net profit, over and above the five per cent. above charged (13*l.* 15*s.* a head on negroes,)	£342	15	10
Add five per cent. annual rise in the value of lands,	156	5	0
Add four per cent. increase of negroes, more than keeping up original number,	60	0	0
Real profit, over and above the five per cent. above charged, which is nine per cent. extra, or 14 per cent. on the whole capital.	£559	0	10

In the preceding estimate I have supposed that two hundred bushels of wheat may be sold for every labourer employed, which may be thought too high. I know it is too high for common land, and common management; but I know also, that on good land, and with good management, it has been done, through a considerable neighbourhood, and for many years. On the other hand, I have over-rated the cost of labouring negroes, and I presume the taxes also are over-rated. I have observed, that our families of negroes double in about twenty-five years, which is an increase of the capital invested in them of four per cent. over and above keeping up the original stock.

I am unable to answer the queries, as to the expense necessary to make an acre of forest land maintain one, two, or three sheep. I began an experiment of that kind in the year 1783, clearing out the under growth, cutting up the fallen wood, but leaving all the good trees. I got through about twenty or thirty acres, and sowed it with white clover, and green sward; and intended to have gone on through a forest of four or five hundred acres. The land was excessively rich, but too steep to be cultivated. In spite of total neglect, during my absence from that time to this, most of it has done well. I did not note how much labour it took to prepare it; but I am sure it was repaid by the fuel it yielded for the family. The richness of the pasture to be thus obtained, will always be proportioned to that of the land. Most of our forests is either middling or poor. Its inclosure with a wood fence costs little, as the wood is on the spot.

TH. JEFFERSON.

18th June, 1792.

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COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED TO AT THE CLOSE OF WASHINGTON'S LETTER OF JUNE 21, 1792, WHICH WERE HANDED TO HIM BY COLONEL HAMILTON.

BUCKS COUNTY, Pennsylvania, 29th August, 1791.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 13th inst. I received this day week. I have endeavoured to comply with your request in the best manner I was capable, yet not altogether in the way you mentioned. The novelty of the subject, and never having kept any regular account of the annual produce of my lands, nor knowing any person to whom I could apply for such minute information, made it necessary for me to consider the different objects; and taking to my assistance an intelligent neighbouring farmer, without letting him into the object of my pursuit, we together have formed an estimate, of what may be supposed the average annual product of the different articles raised on the lands here, as you will perceive by the paper herewith transmitted. I have added some articles not mentioned by you, and omitted what may be consumed by the family who occupy the farm, not doubting but in that particular, you must be much more competent to judge than I am; I have therefore only mentioned what I suppose the average number of persons on a two hundred acre farm.

Although I have not filled the columns in the form you sent me, yet am in hopes you will be able to extract the necessary information, and reduce it into such form as will be most convenient for your purpose.

Happy in an opportunity afforded me, at least to endeavour to serve you, and anxious for the success of every measure which may tend to promote the general interests of our country,

I am, &c. &c.

To ALEX. HAMILTON, ESQ.

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BUCKS COUNTY, Pennsylvania,

Quantity, two hundred acres: Value, thirty-two hundred dollars.—Two hundred acres being nearly the average quantity of the farms in this quarter; I have taken that as the most convenient portion from which to form the required estimates.

Arable Land, one hundred and twenty-five acres.—The arable land, divided into five fields, of twenty-five acres each, makes in the whole one hundred and twenty-five acres.

Pasture, fifty acres.—The course of cropping pursued here requiring three fields to be under tillage, two of course will be left for pasture, which make fifty acres.

Orchard, &c. ten acres.—Orchard, garden, house, and barn, yards, lanes, &c.; supposed to occupy ten acres.

Meadow, fifteen acres.—The natural meadows in this part of the country being few, yet as every farmer finds means for allotting some portion of his land for that use, suppose the nearest average fifteen acres.

Woodland, fifty acres.—Timber being an article indispensably necessary for fuel, fencing, building, &c. have allowed fifty acres for that use.

Wheat, two hundred bushels, at ninety cents per bushel, is one hundred and eighty dollars.—One of the aforesaid fields is allotted, in rotation, for wheat and rye; suppose twenty thereof to be sown with wheat, will yield, *communibus annis*, ten bushels per acre; for although in seasons, on well improved grounds, twenty, thirty, and even thirty-five bushels may be produced from the acre; yet from the many casualties to which land tillage is exposed, so that in some seasons the best improved ground may not produce even five bushels; I have, from my own observation, and that of an intelligent neighbouring farmer, taken the above as the nearest supposed medium, making two hundred bushels; which, at ninety cents per bushel, is one hundred and eighty dollars.

Rye, fifty bushels, at sixty cents per bushel, thirty dollars.—Rye likewise, ten bushels to the acre; the remainder of the field, being five acres, will yield fifty bushels, which, at sixty cents per bushel, make thirty dollars.—The field on which the wheat and rye is sowed, is generally also put in with grass, and lays for pasture two years.

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Corn, three hundred bushels, at forty cents, one hundred and twenty dollars.—One field is generally allotted to Indian corn and buck-wheat, in the same proportion with wheat and rye; the twenty acres of corn will average fifteen bushels per acre, making in the whole three hundred bushels, at forty cents per bushel, is one hundred and twenty dollars.

Buck-wheat, seventy-five bushels at thirty cents, is twenty-two dollars and fifty cents.—This grain is so precarious in its growth, that it is extremely difficult to form an estimate of its general produce; but suppose fifteen bushels per acre, which, from five acres, being the remainder of that field occupied by the corn, will be seventy-five bushels, valued at thirty cents per bushel, is twenty-two dollars fifty cents.

Barley.—So little of this grain is raised here, that I did not think it worth notice.

Oats, one hundred bushels at twenty cents per bushel, twenty dollars.—By the course of cropping commonly used here, this grain is sowed, for the sake of ease and convenience to the farmer, upon some part of the fallow intended for wheat, to which it generally proves injurious, therefore is not largely propagated: I have only allotted five acres, which will average twenty bushels per acre, making the whole one hundred bushels, at twenty cents per bushel, is twenty dollars.

Flax and Seed, thirty dollars.—This is also generally raised on part of the fallow; suppose two, which, on an average, may yield two hundred and fifty pounds of swingled flax, and twelve bushels of seed, which, both together, may be worth thirty dollars.

Apples and Cider, thirty dollars.—Every farm has more or less of orcharding; eight acres allowed for that use, the product whereof, in apples and cider, cannot be worth less than thirty dollars.

Hay, twenty tons: value, one hundred and twenty dollars.—Although fifteen acres only are allotted for meadow, which, probably, on an average, will not yield more than that number of tons, yet as the farmers, by sowing grass-seeds on their lands, improved with dung, plaster of Paris, &c. annually mow more or less of those, I have allowed twenty tons, worth six dollars each, makes one hundred and twenty dollars.

Cattle, annual product, seventy dollars.—I suppose a farm of two hundred acres will, on an average, support twelve head of cattle; of those, I suppose five milk

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cows, which will each yield per annum, one calf, two of them to be raised and three fatted; the latter worth six dollars. Five milk cows will produce fifteen pounds of butter per month each, for seven months, which makes in the whole 525lbs. at nine cents per lb. makes forty-seven dollars twenty-five cents; five months allowed for their being farrow, or fatting the calves. Two calves annually raised, affords opportunity for disposing of that number of cattle annually either in beef or milk cows, which, being worth sixteen dollars each, makes thirty-two dollars; making in the whole seventy-nine dollars twenty-five cents. Deduct, for accidents, &c. nine dollars twenty-five cents, leaves an annual product of seventy dollars.

Horses.—Whatever these may produce, must be considered as included in the general product of the farm, for the cultivation of which they are made by the propagation of the animal, unless it be in the most interior parts of the country, where no market can be procured for grain, &c.

Sheep, annual product, twenty-eight dollars.—Twenty store sheep may be conveniently kept on a two hundred acre farm; their wool will average forty pounds per year, worth twenty-three cents per pound, which makes ten dollars; their increase in lambs, twelve; this number being to be disposed of annually, either in lambs or fatted mutton, they may be worth 1½ dollars each; makes eighteen dollars. Thus the whole annual product on sheep will be twenty-eight dollars.

Hogs, annual product, eighty dollars.—Ten hogs may be considered as the average number raised annually on a two hundred acre farm; weighing two hundred net pounds each, making two thousand pounds at four cents per pound; the value of the annual product will be eighty dollars.

Poultry, annual product, ten dollars.—Suppose, on an average, ten dozen may be raised, worth one dollar per dozen; their product will be ten dollars.

Wood consumed in fuel, twenty-five cords.—Allowing one kitchen fire, which burns more or less the whole year, and one other fire during the winter, for the convenience of the family; I suppose the two fires will consume twenty-five cords.

Consumed by cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and poultry: Indian corn, two hundred bushels; rye, 25 ditto; buckwheat, 40 ditto; potatoes, 75 ditto; hay, twenty tons.

The family consumption may be estimated by what will support nine persons, viz.

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the man, his wife, and three children; one man hired by the year, one bound boy, and one girl; the extra hiring of hands in harvest, and hay-making; spinsters, visitors, &c. equal to the maintenance of one person more during the year.

Tax paid annually for defraying the expenses of the country, supporting the poor, and repairing the roads, will average about eight dollars.

PITTSBURGH, October 27, 1791.

SIR,

Herewith I return your form, filled as well as I am able at present. I beg leave to mention, that in a new country like this, where farming is not reduced to system, it is difficult to form an estimate as you wish. Our farms are generally new; the oldest not exceeding twenty years.

In order to give you as good an idea as possible, I have divided them into three classes, annexing the just value of each class; and have averaged the product. I believe this rule would apply as equally here as any other. I have extended my inquiries to two or three different farms of each class.

Should the method which I have adopted, not answer your intention, or be too inexplicit, I will, with the greatest pleasure, make any further inquiries that you may think necessary.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

With much respect,

Your obedient humble servant,

To ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Esq.

VALUE OF FARM.	KINDS OF LAND.
Lands divided into three classes.	Arable land, . . . 47 acres.
First class, at 25*s.* per acre.	Pasture land, . . . 10 "
Second class at 15*s.* per acre.	Meadow, ... 7 "
Third class at 10*s.* per acre.	Woodland, ... 250 "
Averaged value, 16*s.* 8*d.*	

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	ANNUAL PRODUCT.	QUANTITY CONSUMED BY CATTLE AND POULTRY.	PRICES.
			s. *d.*
Wheat,	150 bushels.	— bushels.	3 9 bushel.
Rye,	150 "	30 "	2 6 "
Corn,	250 "	200 "	2 0 "
Oats,	160 "	60 "	1 6 "
Barley,	50 "		3 9 "
Buckwheat,	50 "		1 6 "
Potatoes,	200 "	160 "	1 10 "
Other roots and vegetables in value.			
Black cattle,	4		
Horses,	2		
Sheep,	6		
Hogs,	15		
Poultry,	6 dozen.		
Tobacco, a small quantity in own consumption.			
Cords of wood, consumed in fuel, without number.			
Hay,	8 tons.	6 tons.	50*s*. per ton.

WYE, (Eastern Shore of Maryland,) Nov. 11, 1791.

DEAR SIR,

The method in which I proceeded on the inquiry was this: in conversations with farmers, I expressed a wish to be informed of several particulars in rural concerns, that seemed to me to have been too little thought of by husbandmen. On explaining my meaning, they approved of the design, and promised to recollect what

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they could of those matters, and that they would communicate the result to me. Having thus prepared them, I some time after delivered to them printed papers, containing the particulars of my inquiries, and requested they would fill up the blanks in those papers. The last step was to wait on them at their houses.

The information contained in the paper which I have now the honour to deliver to you, is all that could be obtained. The farmers received the papers with hearty intentions to fill up the blanks, without conceiving there was any difficulty in the execution; yet the only reason of there not being other answers to the questions, is solely from the difficulty, to them the impossibility, of fulfilling their design and promise; for they kept no minutes, and their attention to the bulk of the articles, as they acknowledged with concern, had been trifling. On this occasion I had the pleasure to hear several of the farmers declare, that being, by the inquiry, led to think on the numerous particulars in the paper, they had determined in future to make some account of them, as they conceive it will be considerably advantageous to them.

The little introduction to the piece was meant to soften it, from an appearance it might have of an inventory of their effects; and I think that if the value of the things, especially of the land, can be omitted, the quantities would be more readily, if not also in more numerous instances, obtained; and there would be less danger of a jealousy, that the inquiry is meant for political purposes. In one instance only, there appeared a suspicion that such a use was intended. It was in the last conversation I had on the subject with some farming gentlemen. "It may be said, by some people, that Mr. B. is a politician, and that he wants to know the value of country estates, that they may be taxed."

The value of lands, as reported by the proprietors, probably is less to be depended on, than if it was collected from conversations with people from the several States. Ask any man what his land would sell for, or is worth, he cannot find a moderate rate.

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The land, in the present case, is fully worth the sum it is rated at; but yet, in my opinion, it could not now be sold, on time, for that price.

No article is so slow of sale as land, at this time.

I have the honour to be &c.

THE HON. MR. HAMILTON.

The following account is of a farm in Talbot county, (state of Maryland,) of middling goodness, with the medium produce of its last four years crops. It contains about four hundred and fifty acres, of which one hundred and eighty are woodland, two hundred and seventy arable, and of this one hundred and ten are pasture. The value of the whole, as it might be expected to sell on time, according to present opinion, is 2500*l.* (562*l.* at 4*s.* 6*d.*)

Its produce, in common, the medium of four years, follows:

	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Wheat	700	£263 0
Rye		0 0
Corn	450	67 0
Oats		0 0
Barley		0 0
Buck-wheat		0 0
Potatoes, with fruit, other roots and vegetables, in value		50 0
Tobacco	5000	50 0
Wood for fuel (cords)	160	20 0
Hay (tons)	5	25 0
Pulse (peas, &c.)		0 0
Hemp		0 0

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	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
Flax	100	2 10
Wool	200	10 0
Butter	400	20 0
Cotton, cheese, fruit		0 0
Cattle thirty-five, annually raised		120 0
Horses twenty-five, colts do. do.		250 0
Sheep eighty, lambs do. do.		75 0
Hogs, annually killed or sold		60 0
Poultry per year, dunghill	400	0 0
Turkies one hundred, ducks ninety.		

The quantities and values are generally in round numbers, which has a suspicious appearance. But the worthy farmer, after considering well each article, stated them partly from memory, partly from notes, or scraps of paper, and thought it best to omit fractional quantities and sums, as he had not perfect minutes. It is the account of an honest candid man, who would not have given it if he had not believed it to be generally just.

MR. PETERS TO COL. HAMILTON.

BELMONT, (six miles from Philadelphia,) 27th August, 1791.

DEAR SIR,

I send you the best answers to your inquiries on the agricultural subject, I can at present think of. I thought it best to draw it up in the form of an account, though I have filled up the columns you sent me. The manner I have pursued, will furnish you with every thing you require, though much of it may be useless to you, and inapplicable, perhaps, to your immediate object. You will perceive the miserable state of agriculture in the part of the county I live in. It is bad enough every where, but the fertility of soil in lands recently cleared, or naturally better, and readier

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access to manure, give advantages to farmers more happily seated. The account will explain the principles I went on, and, lest my calculation should be too conjectural, I took four similar farms I well knew, which are situated not far from each other, but far enough to give a general view of the state of the country. I consulted the most intelligent of their owners, men who happened to be the best informed on the subject of any of my neighbours. I averaged the actual produce in a year, the best of four years' cultivation, in all of them. So that this, added to my own experience, convinces me that I am not far wrong in any particular. I omitted my own farm, because it far exceeds the common produce of others; and though my expenses are greater, they are amply compensated by the difference of product; in all instances double, in many treble, and in some quadruple. Yet, with all this, I find farming but a bad trade, when capital is calculated upon. There are few men of any talents, who cannot employ themselves in any other business to greater advantage. When I consider the actual profit of a farm, I am more astonished at the injustice and folly of those who have burdened the land with such heavy impositions. It is true, farmers are never on velvet, for they pay their share of imperceptible taxes. Yet these taxes are also borne by those whose property is latent, and cannot therefore be directly touched; and the owners of this kind of property are frequently the greatest consumers. But it is useless to trouble you with such observations. Nor will it be of service to enter into speculations, many of which are confirmed by successful experience, to show how the agriculture of this country may be improved. These improvements depend not directly on government; ultimately they have no inconsiderable relation to it: but farmers can only come in for their share of beneficial effects, flowing from good general systems. I can truly say, they ought to hope every thing in this view of the subject; and I am happy to be convinced that the spirit of improvement is rising rapidly among them. It has been a point of patriotism with me for many years past, to promote this spirit; and having set out with moderate expectations, I have not been without some gratifications.

I am, &c.

R. PETERS.

A. HAMILTON, Esq.

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DR. FARM.

		£	s.	d.
To annual interest on capital, two hundred acres, at £8 per acre, 1600*l.* at six per cent.		96	0	0
STOCK AND IMPLEMENTS.				
Four horses, at 15*l.* each	£60			
Eight cows, at 6*l.* each	48			
Cart, wagon, ploughs, harness, geers, &c.	60			
Twelve swine	12			
	£180			
On the above 180*l.* I only charge six per cent.		10	16	0
				£106 16 0
Though the annual loss in some articles is twenty per cent., and in none less than ten, decrease in value by age in horses and cattle, accidents, wear and tear, are the causes, yet I have made no account of annual losses by wear of buildings, or accidents to stock.				
Annual Expenditures, beside the personal labour of the farmer and family, and the produce and cash used for their support.				
One hired man and his maintenance		37	10	0
Extra wages at hay and harvest, and expenses		10	0	0
Days hire for occasional business		5	0	0
Smith's bill		3	0	0
All the hay consumed by stock		90	0	0
Rye, thirty bushels, at 4*s.* 6*d.*		6	15	0
Indian corn, one hundred bushels, at 3*s.*		15	0	0
Buckwheat, one hundred bushels, at 2*s.* 6*d.*		12	10	0
Potatoes, eighty bushels, at 1*s.* 6*d.*		6	0	0
Firewood, twenty cords, at 5*s.*		5	0	0
Seed—Wheat, fifteen bushels, at 7*s.* 6*d.* Rye, five bushels, at 4*s.* 6*d.*		6	15	0

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	£	s.	d.	
Potatoes, ten bushels, at 1*s.* 6*d.*	0	18	0	
Indian corn and buck-wheat,	1	10	0	
				£199 16 0
Direct taxes of various descriptions have in some years been 20*l.* now perhaps				15 0 0
				£321 12 0

CONTRA, CR.

	£	s.	d.	
By one hundred and thirty bushels wheat, at 7*s.* 6*d.*	48	15	0	
Fifty bushels rye, at 4*s.* 6*d.*	11	5	0	
One hundred and eighty bushels Indian corn, at 3*s.*	27	0	0	
Thirty bushels oats, at 2*s.* 6*d.*	3	15	0	
One hundred and seventy-five bushels buck-wheat, at 2*s.* 6*d.*	21	17	6	
One hundred bushels potatoes, 1*s.* 6*d.*	7	10	0	
Roots and other vegetables	6	0	0	
				£126 2 6
Two cattle raised annually	4	0	0	
One horse, worth 15*l.* at three years old	5	0	0	
Eight lambs, at 10*s.* each	4	0	0	
Wool of twelve sheep, thirty-six pounds at 2*s.*	3	12	0	
Pork, fourteen hundred pounds at 3*d.*	17	10	0	
Poultry, in value	3	0	0	
Hay, thirty tons, at 3*l.*	90	0	0	
				£127 2 0
Dairy.—Eight cows.				
Six calves, at 20*s.* each	6	0	0	
(Men fallow, two calves raised.)				
Butter, eight hundred and thirty-two pounds, at 1*s.* 3*d.*	52	0	0	
Cheese, one hundred pounds at 6*d.*	2	10	0	
				£60 10 0

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As to offal, milk, &c. except a small part for the family, it is consumed by the calves and pigs, and accounted in their value.				
Flax, one hundred and fifty pounds at 7*d.*	4	7	6	
Deduct one-half for expenses of breaking and hackling,	2	3	9	
	2	3	9	
Add four bushels seed, at 5*s.*	1	0	0	
				£3 3 9
				£316 18 3
Balance against farm,				4 13 9
				£321 12 0

N. B. About eight bushels of wheat per acre, is a full allowance for the better kind of farms in these parts. Some do not yield six; and eight out of ten do not come up to eight bushels per acre. The farms I have selected, sow from sixteen to twenty acres, winter grain. The average of active crops is, however, less than eight bushels to the acre.

VALUE OF FARM.—Two hundred acres, at 1600*l.* Pennsylvania currency.

KINDS OF LAND.		ANNUAL PRODUCT.	
Arable and pasture, 152 acres.		Cattle, increase,	2
Meadow, 18 "		Horses, "	1
Woodland, 30 "		Sheep, "	8
ANNUAL PRODUCT.		Hogs (weight,) 1400lb.	
Wheat, 130 bushls.		Poultry, in value, 3*l.*	
Rye, 50 "		Tobacco.	
Oats, 30 "		Cords of wood consumed for fuel,	20
Indian corn, 180 "		Hay (tons),	30
Barley.		Dairy (butter and calves, 6 calves)	700
Buck-wheat, 175 "		Flax, 150lb.	
Potatoes, 100 "			
Other roots and vegetables, in value, 6*l.*			

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BELMONT, (near Philadelphia,) June 20, 1792.

SIR,

I shall be happy if I can assist in solving Mr. Young's queries; but the time will not admit either of accuracy, or the combinations necessary to form the average of labour, building, or improvement, applicable to the State at large. From Mr. Young's calculations, formed I presume, upon communications from you, I am surprised to find that the prices of labour, and quantity of product, are, in a great degree, similar to those of this State, though you seem to have confined yourself to Virginia, and Maryland. I mean the labour and wages of hirelings; for as to slaves I have but a very imperfect, and you a perfect knowledge, of what concerns their value, expense and labour.

1st. Our wages for hirelings, by the day, are commonly 2*s.* in winter, and 2*s.* 6*d.* nine months in the year, for common days-work on a farm, and every thing found, as to eating and drinking. The same man will hire, and find himself, at 3*s.* and 3*s.* 6*d.* per day; for a reaper 3*s.* to 3*s.* 9*d.* and found; and the same for cutting grass; reaping, by the acre, I have never had done under 5*s.* but the price is generally 7*s.* 6*d.* the labourers finding themselves. Neither reaper nor mower will, on an average, do more than three-fourths of an acre. Mowers, per day, are allowed here a pint of rum, or other spirits, a vile and unnecessary practice. Reapers have as much as they choose, perhaps three half-pints per day; but this practice is yearly diminishing. When I say that a reaper or mower will do three-fourths of an acre, I mean of a common crop; for in heavy grain, or grass, such as a good English crop, no labourer here will reap or mow above half an acre. As to mowing, or what we call cradling grain, we pay a man 5*s.* to 6*s.* per day, and found; and the day's work about the same with Mr. Young's statement, viz. two or two acres and a half per day. Mowing per acre 5*s.* to 6*s.* and a pint of rum. Labourers find themselves food.

2d. The hire of a waggon, four horses, and driver, from 15*s.* to 20*s.* per day.

3d. The yearly hire of a good labourer in Pennsylvania I think sixty dollars, or 22*l.* 10*s.* currency, and found, clothing excepted.

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4th. As to the quantum of labour to be commanded for pay, I know not how to answer. Many who have small farms, either on rent, or their own property, can spare a portion of their time to assist their neighbours for hire. The class of people merely labourers is not very numerous, and by no means stationary or collected. The independent situation they can place themselves in, by removing to the frontiers, is the cause of the scarcity of labourers in the settled parts of the State. Nor is the demand so regular as to detain unconnected labourers in any spot. Whether the considerable improvements we are about undertaking, by roads and canals, will operate so as to attract labourers from other States, or from Europe, in hopes of constant employment, is yet problematical. If these works employ none but our own people, the price will increase on the farmers.

There is no doubt but that the rates of labour are, and will, for a long time, continue to be higher than they are in England. Our people live better than those of the same rank in life in any part of the world. The employer pays for the habits of the hireling, who not only eats and drinks well, when provided for, in addition to his wages, but out of his wages must (if he has one) provide for his family, according to the custom of the country. Even an English labourer, who lives better than one in any part of Europe, would be astonished at the fare of one in America. I do not believe Mr. Young much mistaken, when he says that the rate is, comparatively, one hundred per cent. higher than in England, and the habits of living are as much the cause of it, as the easiness of the passage over the mountains. I am not displeased, as a citizen, at this circumstance; though, as a farmer, it is against my profit. Some things might be retrenched, but I am happy when I know that our common people are better fed and clothed than in any other part of the world.

5th. The prices of lands are so extremely various, that there is no fixing an average. The situation and improvement always add to value. Knowing so little as our farmers do, of the means of renovating lands, the longer they are cleared the less valuable, for the most part, they are. I gave to Colonel Hamilton an exact account of the debtor and creditor of four farms, in my neighbourhood, taken from

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the knowledge I have of the general circumstances of this part of the country. The result is very unfavourable to the characters of our farmers. Be pleased to ask Colonel Hamilton for it, as I have not a copy. I believe Colonel Hamilton, who in some project he had, sent for information to all quarters, could most easily give satisfaction on this point. Mr. Young does not know that, in parts where there are no slaves, the farmer and his family do the greater portion of the work of their farms within themselves. This is the reason why they can get forward and live well. If calculations were made of every thing being hired, few farms in Pennsylvania would clear a farthing. A man here saves money by a crop of ten bushels, and in England he would perish under it. There he rents and hires; here, for the most part, the farm is his own, and he hires little, or none at all.'

The products of wheat can be all sold.

Barley not in great quantities; our people not being as fond as they ought to be of beer.

Rye may increase in demand by domestic distillation; at present it is no great object.

Butter, fluctuating, but all may be sold now produced.

Beef, a good article; and, when we know better how to cure it for exportation, will increase in demand.

Mutton, no sale for any great quantities. For some time hence this will not be a great sheep country; the dryness of our seasons burns up the pasture for a great part of the year; we keep too many dogs, who destroy them; and our country is much intersected with mountains, inhabited by wolves, which cannot be extirpated. It is a profitable article, so far as you can extend it, but no great capital can be employed in it; and, if the business was more extensively carried on, the profit would be reduced

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to nothing. Our long winters are inimical to sheep; they render the keeping expensive, and subject the animal to numberless disorders. We can have no succulent or green forage; turnips are out of the question; our snows and severe weather destroy or cover them; nor is their culture certain. I have tried the English sheep, which soon degenerate, and stand the climate but badly. As to fleece, it is but scant, three pounds per sheep being rather an over calculation. Wool is now in some demand, but I have known it unsaleable. I hope manufactures will continue to increase the demand; but the prospect of this is distant. Mr. Young's calculation upon waste land, might be well enough, if the circumstances before stated, as to sheep, did not forbid our going extensively into them. Sheep have most enemies where there could be most range for them; and they require care as well as range. I know none who have tried the sheep business that have succeeded. Folding is very well, but it requires labour; and the sheep, crowded together here, have often perished. I cannot ascertain how many an acre will support; for none are kept, within my knowledge, but in small numbers, and as a variety in a farmer's stock. They are close feeders, and destroy pasture prodigiously.

Excuse me, Sir, for this hasty and imperfect sketch; I should have gone more deeply into the subject had the time you allot permitted.

Unless one could find, as it is in England, the business carried on in different branches, systematically, it is difficult to make calculations, or even observations, generally applicable. Few people here do all their business by hiring, and some scarcely hire at all. The race of tenantry is miserable indeed.

I am, with the greatest respect,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD PETERS.

P. S. Should you think of any particular point, and would be pleased to mention it, I will pay particular attention to it. Mr. Young's letter would require a very extended discussion.

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PHILADELPHIA, October 20, 1792.

SIR,

I must beg your acceptance of my best thanks for the book that accompanied your polite letter of the 9th of June, which came duly to my hands.

I presume you have long before this received my letter, which was committed to the care of Mr. Pinckney, our Minister at the Court of Great Britain, and shall be very glad if the contents of it afforded you the information which it was intended to communicate; for I am persuaded, that I need not repeat to you, how sincerely I wish success to those laudable exertions which you are making to promote the important interest of agriculture, and the cause of humanity.

With very great esteem, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

PHILADELPHIA, December 2, 1792.

SIR,

I must begin this letter with an apology; no apology ought to be so satisfactory as the truth, and the truth is, that not receiving the account of the taxes of a Virginia estate, for which I had written, (before I left this city, during the recess of Congress,) as mentioned in my letter to you of the 18th of June, the promise I then made of forwarding it to you in my next, had escaped me altogether, until I was reminded of it lately, by a circumstance too trivial to mention.

A copy of the account is now annexed. The name of the proprietor of the estate is not inserted, but on the authenticity of it you may rely. That you may understand the principles on which the land-tax in Virginia is founded, it will be necessary to inform you, that by a law of that State, the inhabitants of it are thrown into districts—say parishes; in each of which, or for two, or more of them united, com-

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missioners are appointed to assess the value of each man's land, that lies within it; on which a certain per centum is uniformly paid.

No negroes under twelve years of age are taxed, nor are any under sixteen subjected to the payment of county or parish levies. Horses, at present, are the only species of stock in that State which pays a tax. Carriages were, when I left Virginia, and I believe still are, subject to a tax by the wheel. It was then, if I recollect rightly, about five dollars each wheel; but whether it is more or less now, or whether there be any at all, is more than I am able with certainty to inform you.

With very great esteem and regard,

I am, Sir, your most obedient,

And much obliged servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, Esq.

DR. FOR PUBLIC TAXES—FOR COUNTY AND PARISH LEVIES.

In Truro Parish, 1792.	£.	s.	d.
Tax on 6320 acres of land, for 1791	13	8	7
" 114 negroes, at 2*s.* 6*d.*	14	5	0
" 87 horses at 6*d.*	2	3	6
" 107 county and parish levies, at 29lbs. of tobacco each, 3013			
Fairfax Parish (adjoining).			
Tax on 3420 acres of land	6	6	2
" 24 negroes, at 2*s.* 6*d.*	3	0	0
" 15 horses, at 6*d.*	0	7	6
" 23 county and parish levies, at 29lbs. of tobacco each 567			
3670	£39	10	10
3670lbs. tobacco, at 15*s.* per cwt.	27	10	6
Total—(Dollars, at 6*s.*)	£67	1	4

NOTE.—There ought to have been in the above account, a discrimination in the

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charge for county and parish levies. The first is for building and repairing court-houses, gaols, &c. criminal processes, &c. the latter is for the support of the poor, and other parochial charges.

EXTRACTS FROM SOME REMARKS SENT TO GENERAL WASHINGTON ON THE PRECEDING ACCOUNTS.

A reaper, 3*s.* to 3*s.* 9*d.* a day, and does three-fourths of an acre; say 2*s.* 2*d.* sterling, and board; which, with us, is called 16*l.* If a farmer boards his men with his bailiff, he pays in that proportion: this is 10½*d.* a day; but the better fare of harvest will make it at least 1*s.* 6*d.* or 3*s.* 8*d.* for three-fourths of an acre—4*s.* 10½*d.* per acre. We have no part of England in which this is done so cheaply. It rises from 5*s.* to 20*s.* per acre; with you, the same expense mows an acre, viz. 3*s.* 8*d.* This, on the contrary, is dearer than with us, if for grass; and, for corn, a man mows two or two and a half acres a day.

The next minute is a waggon, four horses, and (I suppose a man) 15*s.* or 10*s.* sterling. This is nearly the price with us all the year, except in very busy seasons, when not to be had at all.

In Maryland, wages 20*l.* and all found but clothes; sterling, 12*l.*; with us, the head man 10*l.*; the rest 8*l.*

On the Fluvanna and Rivanna, a negro 9*l.* and every thing found; and in a former letter, all labour with slaves. Hence quere—Is the labour noted in these minutes, accidental, and not to be commanded in any amount; or is it the standard employment of the State? Reckoning a negro at 50*l.* and estimating his life in any ratio, he must surely be cent. per cent. dearer than the labour of England. Governor Glen, in his description of South Carolina, (one of the best accounts of a country I have met with) says, that a slave can manage two acres of indigo, or six of Indian

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corn: this must be less than the half of what our labourers do, who will set out and clean effectually half an acre of turnips every day, for the first hoeing; and from three-fourths to one acre the second.

I see no reason to calculate it less than one hundred per cent. higher than in England; and the general information I have at various times had from other persons, seems to confirm the idea: no wonder, while every man, by going over the mountains, can have land for himself.

The next difficulty is in respect of the purchase of land, which in the notes is every where per acre, very properly (I suppose the statute English acre, or it would have been mentioned to the contrary); but it is not mentioned what State the lands are in, which are thus valued: whether additions to properties already built and improved, or the improvements themselves, including the buildings, fences, &c. In the instances of mountain-land, the expressions seem to indicate waste land, unbuilt, and uninclosed. The prices converted to sterling, appear to be nearly as follows:

ABOVE 40*s.*	BELOW 40*s.*
£10 0 0	£1 1 0
4 1 0	0 15 0
2 8 0	0 9 0
3 0 0	0 16 0
4 16 0	1 16 0
2 2 0	0 15 6
3 15 0	1 11 0
3 2 0	0 15 6
2 4 0	1 2 0
3 0 0	1 2 6
	1 17 6
10) £38 8 0	1 11 0
	1 2 0
Average, 3 16 9	1 2 6

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ABOVE 40*s.*				BELOW 40*s.*			
1	2	2		1	7	6	
				0	14	0	
2) 4	18	11		0	19	0	
General average £2	9	5		17) £18	17	0	
				Average £1	2	2	

Which may be thus contrasted with Suffolk, the rent of which is, on an average, nearly that of England. Rent 12*s.* an acre, at twenty-eight years purchase, or 16*l.* 16*s.*

It is impossible to compare the soils without seeing them; but from various circumstances touched on in the letters, I am inclined to think American land as good as ours in Suffolk at least. The spontaneous growth of white clover is, with us, a sure criterion of good land; we have none of it in Suffolk, or at least very little; when our land is worn out by bad management, and left, it runs to what is called water-grass, the *Agrostis stolonifera*, one of the worst seeds any country can be plagued with. American products, it is true, are shocking, and mark a management which, thank God, we know nothing of. Such crops would not be found in any part of this kingdom. The observation, that in America farmers look to labour much more than to land, is new to me; but it is a calculation which I cannot understand, for, exactly in proportion to the dearness of labour, is the necessity of having good crops: a bad one, in every thing but threshing, costs as much in labour as a good one. Good crops are not gained by operose systems so well, or so surely, as by reposing the soil under grass, and supporting great stocks of cattle and sheep. Such products as you describe, with dear labour, are absolutely inexplicable. A very severe mildew has been known to damage wheat so much in England, that the crop, being calculated at seven or eight bushels an acre, in cheap times, has been mown and carted to the farm yard for the hogs to eat it, and make dung. With so small a crop the quality is sure to be bad, if the soil is naturally good.

I have stated the price of land in Suffolk at 16*l.* 16*s.*; but this price includes buildings and improvements; for instance, suppose three hundred acres in one farm:

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House	£600
Barns	500
Stable	200
Cow-house	100
Styes, &c.	50
Cart-lodge	50
Gates and fences, and road,	370
	£1870

This, I believe moderate; however, let us call it only 6*l.* per acre, 1800*l.* it reduces the price of land to 10*l.* 16*s.* There are various improvements besides, such as irrigation, marling, draining; but we will drop them at present.

It should seem that in Virginia, taxes may be calculated in this manner, perhaps not with accuracy.

	s.	*d.*
7*s.* 6*d.* on 100*l.* suppose 50 acres; this is about	0	2
Negro tax may be	0	1
Horse tax, 6*d.*	0	0½
Parish, and county levies 7*s.* 6*d.* a head, 20 would be 7*l.* 10*s.* perhaps per acre	0	6
currency	0	9½

per acre—sterling say 7*d.*

The price of products contrasted with Suffolk:

	AMERICA.		SUFFOLK.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Wheat per bushel, average	3	0	5	0
Rye	1	9	3	0
Barley	1	10	2	6
Butter	0	5½	0	8½
Beef	0	2¼	0	4½
Mutton	0	3¼	0	5
	7	6	11	0

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By means of the enormous demand of London, the three cattle products may be sold in any quantities produced, without the least apprehension of wanting a market, and those of corn at these rates also. If five hundred stone of beef on a farm, at two and one fourth, is made ten thousand stone, can you sell it readily? the West Indies considered, this is probably the case. Mutton is an article of infinitely greater importance, but that not being barrelled, probably could not be sold.

You have the unaccountable circumstance, I see, as well as England, of mutton being dearer than beef: horses, not oxen, being almost universal with us, makes it yet more strange. I know, from experiments made with considerable care, that if they were at the same price, the farmer would have more profit by producing mutton than by producing beef; yet is mutton by many per cent. higher priced! but sheep give you another profit in their wool, and a third in their fold. The former with us is infamously depressed in price, but not in America, for your wool at 1*s.* per pound is thirty-three per cent. higher than it would sell for in England. Why then surely you should raise those products that sell well? and wool sells better (of course in any quantity) than any thing else you have. With mutton at 3*d.* per pound, and wool at 1*s.* there can be no comparison between sheep and any other application of land. But there must be a market for mutton; and to effect that, you should get Bakewell's breed, which fattens so readily on very good land, that a common application of it is salting, to use instead of bacon. The provincial assemblies of France have employed smugglers to get (badly chosen) English sheep. Half the kings in Europe have done the same, to get Spanish sheep: both very wisely. I hope your American assemblies will be equally wise, and take care that the food produced in the State is applied to the breeds that will pay best for it.

We may thus compare England and America, supposing three hundred acres bought and farmed by the purchaser:

ENGLAND.	£	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Produce of 300 acres, 5 rents, at 12*s.* or 3*l.*				900	0	0
Deduct						
Land-tax 3*s.* in the pound, at a 4*s.* cess on 180*l.*	27	0	0			
Rates 4*s.* 6*d.*	40	10	0			

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	£	s.	d.			
Tithe 4*s.* 6*d.*	40	10	0			
Roads	3	10	0			
Assessed Taxes	3	0	0			
				£114	10	0
				£785	10	0
Deduct further,						
Labour	150	0	0			
Interest of 5040*l.* at 5 per cent.	252	0	0			
Interest 1200*l.* farmer's capital	60	0	0			
				£462	0	0
Nett				£323	10	0

5*l.* 3*s.* per cent. on 6240*l.*

Repairs supposed the same with both, and therefore omitted. But quere, Mr. Jefferson's Virginia, p. 258, where he says they are built so badly as to last only fifty years: ours last one hundred and fifty years of wood, and much longer if of brick.

AMERICA.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Produce of three hundred acres, supposed the same as in England, but the price as 7½ to 11				613	0	0
Deduct	£.	s.	d.			
Taxes 7*d.* per acre	8	15	0			
Labour at cent. per cent. higher than England	300	0	0			
Interest of 1051*l.* at 5 per cent. the purchase of 300 acres at 3*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*	52	11	0			
Interest of 900*l.* farmer's capital, at 3*l.* per acre, or 20*s.* less than England	45	0	0			
				£406	6	0
Nett				£206	14	0

10*l.* 11*s.* per cent. on 1951*l.*

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QUERE.—If labour should be reckoned so high as 300*l.*? But, note that the actual labour in America in amount must not be regarded, unless, you take American products, which are very much below ours. I have supposed the American land as good, and the produce as large as in England; consequently as much labour. The prices sent, of oxen, cows, sheep, &c. justify the lowering the stock of American farms 20*s.* an acre; but it will not justify it, if they are not as well built, and inclosed as in England, which I suppose them to be, estimating the purchase of our land not at 10*l.* 16*s.* but at 16*l.* 16*s.* an acre. I have supposed very good husbandry in England at five rents; but then I give America the equal advantage of it, by allowing her the same.

The error, if there is one, I conjecture to be, supposing the whole American farm what the Suffolk one must be, all cultivated at a good price per acre; whereas it is obvious that the great profit to be derived from agriculture in America, is to have one thousand, fifteen hundred, or two thousand acres of waste adjoining to such a farm; which waste should be, by very simple methods, converted to sheep walk, and so made the dunghill for the cultivated land. In such case, the rent of that waste would be the interest of the money it would sell for: as the country is peopled, the rent so estimated would gradually rise, till at last it would answer no longer to adhere to such a destination. The object is very important to convert wood to profit at small expense. I have grubbed several acres, the expense 10*l.* an acre; but the wood pays; with labour cent. per cent. higher, and wood of no value, woodland thus acquired would be dearer near 5*l.* per acre than land improved, cultivated, and built, in England.

The return of a sheep in England, weight alive one hundred and fifty pound, may be estimated at 10*s.* besides keeping up or renovating the stock: mutton at 5*d.* and wool at 9*d.* long or 1*s.* 3*d.* short (9*d.* producing more money than 1*s.* 3*d.*) In America mutton at 3¼*d.* and wool at 1*s.* a sheep ought to yield 7*s.* 6*d.* Suppose one thousand acres bought for 1000*l.* and feeding one thousand sheep only, yielding 7*s.* 6*d.* each, or even but 5*s.* and here is a profit at once arising, such as in England we know nothing

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of: but from all accounts, this is not the husbandry, and therefore I suppose a market impracticable.

	£	s.	d.
England, per cent. on capital,	5	0	0
Ditto, nett profit,	5	3	0
	£10	3	0
America,	5	0	0
Ditto, nett,	10	11	0
	£15	11	0

Team, seed, wear and tear, reckoned to neither of these, will reduce the interest on the English capital to about 5½ per cent.

BRADFIELD-HALL, Jan. 18, 1792.

BRADFIELD-HALL, January 15, 1793.

Is it possible, that the inhabitants of a great continent not new settlers, who live only to hunt, to eat, and to drink, can carry on farming and planting as a business, and yet never calculate the profit they make by per centage on their capital? And yet this seems to be the case.

The farm of two hundred acres in Bucks county, is such as an Englishman would not accept; for it carries on the face of the account which I have drawn out (A) a dead loss, and not an inconsiderable one; yet the whole labour of a family of five persons is thrown away in order to arrive at that loss.

The Pittsburgh account (B) is so much more profitable that I know not how to believe that I understand it rightly; but I have calculated the products named, as issuing from the quantity of land noted; consequently there is 115*l.* from forty-seven acres arable, which is more than the double of the Bucks farm.

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The Maryland account (C) seems to be very good land, and to yield well; but no note being inserted of expenses, it is impossible to calculate the profits.

Mr. Jefferson's Virginia calculation comes much nearer to the point; but I cannot admit it; he reckons 60*l.* a year increasing value of negroes, and 156*l.* a year rise in value of land. These articles may be fact in certain circumstances, but they will not do for comparisons. In the first place, to have a considerable value invested in slaves, is a hazardous capital; and there is no man in the world who would not give 60*l.* a year on six thousand acres, to be able to change slaves to cows and sheep: he cannot otherwise command labour, and therefore must keep them; but the profit in any other light than labourers, is inadmissible. As to the rise on lands, it may be fair; but taking place equally, perhaps, in Europe, it must not come into the account. During the last ten years, land in England has risen one third in value. Correcting thus Mr. Jefferson's account, his capital pays eleven per cent. as in (D). There are, however, many deductions to be made; as wear and tear of implements, carriage, team, seed, repairs of buildings, white servants, overseers, &c. &c. These ought, as I conjecture, to amount to near 200*l.* a year, which, if so, would reduce the profit in the gross to about eight per cent.

But I have a heavier objection than this, and which bears upon the pith of the subject. How can Mr. Jefferson produce annually five thousand bushels of wheat, worth 750*l.* by means of a cattle product, of only 125*l.*? I do not want to come to America, to know that this is simply impossible: at the commencement of a term it may do, but how long will it last? This is the management that gives such products, as eight and ten bushels an acre. Arable land can yield wheat only by means of cattle and sheep; it is not dung that is wanted so much as a change of products: repose under grasses is the soul of management; and all cleaning and tillage to be given in the year that yields green winter food. By such a system, you may produce, by means of forty oxen and five hundred sheep, five thousand bushels of wheat; and if you raise the oxen to fifty, and sheep to six hundred, you may have so much more wheat; but it is only by increasing cattle that you can increase wheat permanently.

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125*l.* from cattle, to 750*l.* from wheat, would reduce the finest farm in the world to a *caput mortuum;* that is to say to ten bushels an acre which must be nearly such.

Here then opens the part of the subject of my inquiries, where most darkness hangs; the demand for cattle and sheep products. It is the quantity to be sold that makes the difficulty. The demand must be boundless, or encouragement will be wanting.

Wolves are named as a motive for not keeping sheep; surely they cannot be serious, who urge it. They abound all over Europe: in France and Spain, among the greatest flocks in the world; and no wolf could get into my sheep-houses, or at least I may say, that nothing is so easy as to keep him out, even of a yard. Dogs also are an enemy: but America surely has laws, as well as we, that make every man answerable for the mischief done by his dog. By night, if secure from wolves they are secure from dogs; and by day, shepherds may have loaded fire-arms to kill all that approach. While sheep are kept by scores, such objections may hold good; but when by hundreds and thousands, they must vanish.

In the culture of grass for pasturage, as preparatory to corn, the profit of well applying this principle in America, must be very great; there is every advantage of soil, and extent of farm, and no drawback but the rate of labour. Pasturage demands scarcely any labour; so that if there is one system that squares more to the circumstances of America (not forgetting the disposition of the land to run to white clover) than another, it is to adopt a course of crops that takes grass in very largely.

Surely the enormous rise in the price of wool in England and Holland, for two years past, must affect America, and instigate to an increase in the breed of sheep. The freight, when pressed into a smaller compass, is a trifle; and the price is now such, that a fleece alone from American lands, without reckoning the carcass at any thing, must be more valuable than the profit on a crop of wheat of eight or ten bushels an acre, on all lands that will produce white clover spontaneously.

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Suppose on some of the mountain-lands (mountains are no objection on account of wolves, for the Pyrenees are full of both sheep and wolves) which are to be bought for 5*s.* to 20*s.* an acre; at Pittsburgh, 16*s.* 8*d.*; at Fluvanna, 20*s.* Suppose 20*s.* sterling an acre, it is 1*s.* an acre rent; such land, by carrying only one sheep per acre, producing wool only five pounds at 1*s.* or 5*s.* a head; and the mutton to do no more than pay for losses, shepherd, &c., here is a profit such as corn cannot rival; five rents paid by wool! The West Indies are, however, too near for salted mutton, to want a market; and if it sold for only 1*d.* per pound, the object on a large scale would be important.

TWO HUNDRED ACRES, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. (A)

EXPENSES.	DOLLARS.	PRODUCE.	DOLLARS.
200 acres, price 3200 dollars, interest at five per cent,	160	Wheat, 20 acres, 200 bushels,	180
CONSUMPTION ON FARM.		Rye, 5 acres, 50 bushels,	30
Indian corn,	80	Indian corn, 20 acres, 300 bushels,	120
Rye,	15	Buck-wheat, five acres, 75 bushels,	22
Buck-wheat,	13	Oats, 5 acres, 100 bushels,	20
Hay,	120	Flax,	30
	228	Cyder,	30
LABOUR HIRED.		Hay,	120
Two men, one boy, and one girl, fed; but supposed not, for simplicity of calculation,	350	Cattle (12),	70
Taxes,	8	Sheep (20),	28
	747	Hogs,	80
Maintenance of a family of five persons.		Poultry,	10
Seed for the above.			740
		Five dollars per acre on 150 acres.	

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314 ACRES, PITTSBURGH. (B)

EXPENSES.

	£.	s.	d.
Purchase of 314 acres, at 16*s.* 8*d.* 261*l.*			
Interest at 5 per cent.	13	0	0

CONSUMPTION BY CATTLE.

30 bushels rye, 2*s.* 6*d.*	3	15	0
200 " Indian corn, 2*s.*	10	0	0
60 " oats, 1*s.* 6*d.*	4	10	0
160 " potatoes, 1*s.* 10*d.*	14	13	0
	£45	18	0

PRODUCE.

150 bushels wheat, at 3*s.* 9*d.*	28	2	6
150 " rye, at 2*s.* 6*d.*	18	10	0
150 " Indian corn, 2*s.*	25	0	0
160 " oats, 1*s.* 6*d.*	12	0	0
50 " barley, 3*s.* 9*d.*	9	7	6
50 " buck-wheat, 1*s.* 6*d.*	3	15	0
200 " potatoes, 1*s.* 10*d.*	18	6	0
From 47 acres,	£115	1	0

TALBOT COUNTY; MARYLAND, 450 ACRES. (C)

EXPENSES.

Price, 2500*l.*; interest at five per cent.,	£125		

PRODUCE.

Wheat,	£263	0	0
Corn,	67	0	0
Potatoes,	50	0	0
Tobacco,	50	0	0
Wood,	20	0	0
Hay,	25	0	0
Hemp,	£ 0	10	0
Flax,	2	10	0
Wool,	10	0	0
Butter,	20	0	0
Cattle,	120	0	0
Horses,	250	0	0
Sheep,	75	0	0
Hogs,	60	0	0
On 450 acres,	£1013	0	0

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VIRGINIA. (D)

EXPENSES.				PRODUCE.			
Interest of 6187*l.* stock				Wheat, 5000 bushels,	£750		
in land, and negroes,				Meat, 5*l.* a head,	125		
and utensils, &c.	£309	7	6				
Clothes, &c. negroes,	150	0	0		875		
Taxes, (corrected)	30	0	0		489		
	£489	7	6	Profit on capital of 6187*l.*	£386		
				Or per cent.	6	4	0
				Add 5*l.*	5	0	0
					£11	4	0

PHILADELPHIA, June 28th, 1793.

DEAR SIR,

I should have taken time ere this, to have considered the observations of Mr. Young, could I at this place have done it in such a way as would satisfy either him or myself. When I wrote the notes of the last year, I had never before thought of calculating what were the profits of a capital invested in Virginia agriculture. Yet that appeared to be what Mr. Young most desired. Lest, therefore, no other of those whom you consulted for him, should attempt such a calculation, I did it; but being at such a distance from the country of which I wrote, and having been absent from that, and from the subject in consideration, many years, I could only, for my facts, recur to my own recollection, weakened by time, and very different applications, and I had no means here of correcting my facts. I, therefore, hazarded the calculation, rather as an essay of the mode of calculating the profits of a Virginia estate, than as an operation which was to be ultimately relied on. When I went last to Virginia, I put the press copy of those notes into the hands of the most skilful and successful farmer in the part of the country of which I wrote. He omitted to return them to

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me, which adds another impediment to my resuming the subject here. But indeed, if I had them, I could only present the same facts, with some corrections, and some justifications of the principles of calculation. This would not, and, ought not, to satisfy Mr. Young. When I return home, I shall have time and opportunity of answering Mr. Young's inquiries fully. I will first establish the facts, as adapted to the present times, and not to those to which I was obliged to recur by recollection, and I will make the calculation on rigorous principles. The delay necessary for this, will, I hope, be compensated by giving something which no endeavours on my part shall be wanting to make worthy of confidence. In the mean time, Mr. Young must not pronounce too hastily on the impossibility of an annual production of 750*l.* worth of wheat, coupled with a cattle product of 125*l.* My object was to state the produce of a good farm, under good husbandry, as practised in my part of the country. Manure does not enter into this, because we can buy an acre of new land cheaper than we can manure an old one. Good husbandry with us, consists in abandoning Indian corn and tobacco: tending small grain, some red clover, fallowing, and endeavouring to have, while the lands are at rest, a spontaneous cover of white clover. I do not present this as a culture judicious in itself, but as good, in comparison with what most people there pursue. Mr. Young has never had an opportunity of seeing how slowly the fertility of the original soil is exhausted, with moderate management of it. I can affirm, that the James river low-grounds, with the cultivation of small grain, will never be exhausted; because we know, that, under that cultivation, we must now and then take them down with Indian corn, or they become, as they were originally, too rich to bring wheat. The high-lands where I live, have been cultivated about sixty years. The culture was tobacco and Indian corn, as long as they would bring enough to pay the labour; then they were turned out. After four or five years rest, they would bring good corn again, and in double that time, perhaps, good tobacco. Then they would be exhausted by a second series of tobacco and corn. Latterly we have begun to cultivate small grain; and excluding Indian corn, and fallowing, such of them as were originally good, soon rise up to fifteen or twenty bushels the acre. We allow that every labourer will manage ten acres of wheat, except at harvest. I have no doubt but the coupling cattle and sheep with this, would prodigiously improve

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the produce. This improvement, Mr. Young will be better able to calculate than any body else. I am so well satisfied of it myself, that having engaged a good farmer from the head of Elk (the style of farming there you know well), I mean in a farm of about five hundred acres of cleared land, and with a dozen labourers to try the plan of wheat, rye, potatoes, clover, with a mixture of some Indian corn with the potatoes, and to push the number of sheep. This last hint I have taken from Mr. Young's letters, which you have been so kind as to communicate to me. I had never before considered, with due attention, the profit from that animal. I shall not be able to put the farm into that form exactly the ensuing autumn, but against another I hope I shall; and I shall attend with precision to the measures of the ground, and to the product, which may, perhaps, give you something hereafter to communicate to Mr. Young, which may gratify him; but I will furnish the ensuing winter, what was desired in Mr. Young's letter of January 17, 1793.

I have the honour to be, &c.

THOS. JEFFERSON.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

RICHARD PETERS'S OBSERVATIONS ON AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED 15th JANUARY, 1793, FROM ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ., TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. "Your information has thrown me afloat on the high seas. To analyze your husbandry, has the difficulty of a problem. Is it possible, that the inhabitants of a great continent, &c. can carry on farming as a business, and yet never calculate profit by per centage on capital?" &c.

I know not where to land Mr. Young from his sea-voyage, unless facts, well known and felt here, serving as pilots to guide him into a safe harbour, will enable him to arrive on a shore, pleasant in its prospects, and abundant in its resources; not so much indebted to art as to nature, for its beauties and conveniences. Let him but realize his proposals of coming among us (I presume as a visitant), and

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judge for himself. He will not be embarrassed with unavailing conjectures, or laborious calculations: he will find, that, added to our situation as a new country, where much land is to be had for little money, our political arrangements contribute to our happiness, and to our moderate, but competent wealth. We have no princes, to indulge the grades more immediately beneath them, in their pleasures and their passions, that they may themselves be supported at the expense of the nation, in their schemes of ambition and luxury; no over-grown nobles, to wanton on the hard earnings of an oppressed yeomanry! He will find a respectable clergy, chosen by their respective congregations, and reputably supported by the voluntary contributions of their hearers. But these are not ecclesiastical drones!—*fruges consumere nati:* they do, themselves, the duties required of them! they act not in the affairs of heaven by deputies, whose poverty is truly apostolical; the penurious stipends allowed them by their grasping superiors, compelling them to be conversant only in the fasts, while their principals revel in the feasts, of the church. In a word, he will not see a sable host of superfluous and pampered priests (maintained by numbers who do not hear, or believe in their doctrines), who fatten on the property of the people; and; while they fetter and terrify men's consciences, to mould them to their purposes, eat out their substances, under the sanction of law. These descriptions of characters, in other countries, create and increase taxes; while they render their subordinates less liable to pay them, by enormous rents, made necessary by their dissipation and extravagance, and by their capricious terms of leasing lands, of which they are the principal engrossers. England has perhaps, less reason to complain, on these accounts, than some other European countries; but if we had no other statements to rely on than those given by Mr. Young himself, we should know enough to be convinced, that even there, some of these causes produce misfortunes in sufficient plenty. Not having the least inclination, if it were in my power, to disturb the systems of other nations, and wishing the happiness of mankind in their own way, I do not mention either our positive or negative prosperity, with a view to draw odious or disagreeable comparisons. The world will never agree about forms of government. Let those who think well of grades in society, be happy in the possession of such arrangements. We consider it fortunate, and feel it beneficial, that we have them not.

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Taxes, it is said by some, stimulate to industry; and, therefore, the higher the tax the greater the exertion, and the more employment. But, if this were a more tenable doctrine than it is, I see not that man should labour not for himself, or for himself too hardly: nor should he be compelled, by artificial necessity, like a criminal immerged to the chin in water constantly flowing in upon him, incessantly to pump, or perish. Taxes we have, but the greater part are imperceptible, and all of them light. The moderate expenses of our government, and the mediocrity of our public debt, do not require heavy and ruinous taxation. The backs to bear it, increase faster than the burthen; and we are too far removed from the scenes of ruinous and unnecessary wars, to dread any sudden or fatal increase of it. Wars are generally produced by the pride, vanity, interest, or ambition of hereditary rulers.

The great body of an industrious people are inclined to peace; and from these, our government will always take its tone. As to our wars with the savages, they are, for the time, embarrassing, locally distressing, and generally expensive; but are not nationally formidable or dangerous. Disputes with them must gradually diminish, and, at no distant period, end. Though the reflection be painful to humanity, it is justified, in point of fact, by experience, that the nations in contact with the whites, always have been, and ever will be, exterminated. The approaches of our settlements, always banish the Indians.

Our laws are generally liberal in their policy. We have no narrow arrangements, which, under false notions of national convenience, or shadowy and miscalculated political restrictions, palsy agriculture and commerce, by preventing those who possess the products of the country, from disposing of what their labour has created, when, where, and how they please. Free from such restraints, and from the pressure of heavy rents, church-dues, and taxes, our farmers are the proprietors of the soil they cultivate: they gather the honey, shear the fleece, and guide the plough for themselves alone. It is not the "sic vos non vobis" of Europe. They increase the value of their capital, while they labour for their sustenance. They do not, indeed, receive an annual interest, or revenue, on their capital; but they pay none:

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yet, by their exertions for their own support and accommodation, and the growing population and improvement of the country, to which every one, stranger as well as native, contributes, more than an European per centage is added to their principal; insomuch, that farms will increase in very many parts of the country, tenfold in their value, in less than twenty years. Immense tracts of new lands have been recently sold by the state of Pennsylvania, at less than an English shilling per acre. Great and extensive bodies of these lands can be now procured, at second-hand, at less than half Mr. Y.'s calculation for mountain-lands. I know valuable tracts, of great extent, within a few days' ride of Philadelphia, which may be had at from 3*s.* to 9*s.* sterling per acre. These are not "mountain-lands," though, like all the face of our country, they are cut in some places, by ridges. They are, for the most part, level, and so luxuriant in pasturage, that, maugre our winters, cattle now pass that season in prime order, without cover, or artificial forage. They command both the New York and Philadelphia markets, and are situated in a safe country, which will, ere long, be as great for grazing as any in America. Other States have similar advantages. Mr. Y.'s farm, or even his sixty acres, and the sheep he summered on it, will buy him a little territory; and his capital, in ten years, will be increased 500 per cent. This is not a bad per centage, nor is it a visionary calculation. I wish not to throw out fallacious temptations, but to relate facts, merely to show why our farmers need not make nice calculations about per centage. They have now, and always have had, a sure resource for the wear of their sea-board farms, &c. the growth of their families. Children in Europe are often a burden and expense. The wealth of a great part of the American farmers, grows with the additions to their families. The children assist in the labour of the old farm, or in the establishment of the new one. This supersedes the necessity of calculating on hired labourers, the work being chiefly done within themselves; they are paid by the increased value of the common stock. Our laws, contrary to the feodal injustice of Europe, encourage and direct equality of distribution among the children of intestate descendants; so that many parents purposely omit making wills, contented with the distribution made by law. And though every man has the right, at his pleasure, to dispose of his estate by will or deed, yet the habits of thinking on such occasions,

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take their bias from the spirit of our laws. Many, who have large families, and want room, or are tired of their old farms, think it better to sell, and remove to places where Nature is in her prime; leaving to their successors the toil, calculation, and expense of renovating lands exhausted by bad tillage. The worn farms always find purchasers; and the price paid for them, buys a sufficient quantity of new land, besides leaving a surplus in cash, for improvement. One day this must have an end; but that day is far distant. When it arrives, the proprietors of old lands will adopt better systems of agriculture, which are now fast advancing. These will add to the products of their lands, and procure them more wealth, but possibly not more happiness, in our more ancient settlements. Our old lands are capable of renovation, having a good staple, as has been proved in numberless instances.

I condemn not calculation, which is prudent and proper in every business—"Ego sum pictor." I am sometimes seized with the faculty of calculating, but not always successful in the practical proof of it. I need not, however, be discouraged; for I often read, with pleasure, Mr. Y.'s writings: I admire his genius, and respect even his enthusiasm, in which he often strikes out fine thoughts: but I venerate his candour, while he frequently acknowledges, that success does not always crown his own calculations, or invariably durable conviction, his opinions. We have here innumerable instances of farmers who get forward, without ever spending a thought on per centage, or other nice calculation. And however "problematical" this may seem, it is an observation as old as the first appearance of the redoubtable Hudibras, that

"No argument like matter of fact is."

I ask your forgiveness for the multifarious, and perhaps tiresome scope I have taken. The easy situation of an industrious, full-handed American farmer, is the pleasing result of a combination, produced by all the causes I have mentioned. Instead of calculating, he labours and enjoys. And though I do not profess to have a good opinion of the style of American husbandry, yet even this shows the happy situation, in other respects, of our country. With such farming in Europe, the farmers would starve, and leave their children common labourers, or beggars. And

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yet, here they live well, and leave their descendants the means of obtaining the comforts and conveniences of life. This is the problem I have endeavoured to solve. And I could not, but by this circuitous route arrive at the answer to Mr. Y's question, "Is it possible that the inhabitants of a great continent, not new settlers, who, of course, live to hunt, to eat, and to drink, can carry on farming as a business, and yet never calculate the profit they make by per centage on their capital?" The phraseology, "who, of course, live to hunt, to eat, and to drink," I do not perfectly comprehend. Our hunters are only a few borderers, and not to be counted upon as farmers; nor are our farmers, though they have not the best systems, idle. I therefore think, that (without meaning a critique) "who eat and drink, to live," would have been a more just arrangement of language.

2. "The demand for cattle and sheep, products, hides, tallow, barrelling beef, sheep, wool, wolves, dogs, and law respecting their killing sheep."

The demand for cattle products is as great as we can supply; and the cattle business may be carried on to any extent. This will be a growing and extensive business, and can be pushed as far, and to as great advantage, as in any other country. We have people acquainted with the victualling branch, in all its details; and as this is a country which invites those who "are weary and heavy laden," not "to give them rest," but profitable employment, we have some from Cork, and can have more from thence, and any other part of the world. Our exported beef is in good credit, particularly that from Boston. I have ate mess-beef put up in Philadelphia, after having been an East India voyage, in excellent condition. With this beef, a sample of Philadelphia brewed porter was produced. This had been the same voyage, was perfectly good, and not inferior to English porter. Our merchants prefer our own, though they can purchase Irish beef. The tallow will always sell to profit, and is chiefly consumed here. The hides do not supply our home demand, and therefore importations of Spanish and other hides are frequent. A great proportion of our beef, and all our mutton, are consumed at home; as our people will live well, and eat more meat than any equal number in the world. If the sheep business was carried

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on to much extent, there would be a necessity for exportation. The establishment of considerable manufactures, which is more practicable and beneficial in this country, than many people (particularly those of Europe) suppose, will take off part of the mutton of our flocks. There is little or no export of wool to foreign parts; though it is brought coastways, as it happens to be more abundant in one State than in another. There is no prohibition against the exportation of this, or any other product. But it is consumed at home, where excellent coarse cloths are made, in which a great proportion of our farmers are clad. A variety of other woollen fabrics are also made.

I have no copy of what I mentioned respecting sheep destroying pasture. I know they do not eat so much in proportion as other beasts, and their dung is remarkably fertilizing; but they bite close, and the droughts and heats of summer, which are here long and periodical, burn up the roots. It is a generally received opinion here, that they destroy pasture; and I am warranted by my own experience, to give into it, with some qualifications. We do not find that "the more sheep we keep, the more we may." I believe, in the state of our agriculture, the converse is the most true. In counties where it is an object, and where there are better systems of farming, with dripping seasons, it may be otherwise. I once thought, in some degree, as Mr. Young does; but find that English ideas will not in this, and many other agricultural cases, apply here. In the present state of things, I adhere to my former opinion, that distributing sheep in small numbers to every farmer, will do better than any other plan. I know that more, instead of less, care can be taken of them in this way; for the farmer can, and does attend to them, without interfering too much with his other affairs. Invariably, the sheep of one of our small flocks look the best, and have the most wool. With twenty sheep to each farm capable of supporting them, we might have a prodigious number. If Mr. Young were here, and in the prime of life, and would practise his systems, so as to improve the whole mass of agriculture, much might be done. Our difficulty is to carry large flocks through our long winters. As things are, I have a better opinion of the cattle business than that of sheep; and I think the former would succeed better than the latter, with all the

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management that could be bestowed on it. No one knows, however, what might be done, if the whole capitals and attention of industrious, intelligent, and experienced men were drawn to this point. Our snowy winters would embarrass, if not ruin the turnip plants: and the droughts of summer their large flocks. If chiccory be a serious auxiliary, it is well. It grows as a weed in many parts of this country.

In the observations upon sheep you were pleased to desire of me on a former occasion, I exhausted my small stock of knowledge on that subject. If any thing in these observations is applicable now, I beg to refer you to them.

Wolves are a serious enemy to the sheep plan, in places where there are the largest ranges. Time may, perhaps, subdue them. But we have paid for forty or fifty years past, out of our county-rates, 20*s*. for a wolf's head; and though they are chiefly banished from our plains and older settlements, yet on our mountains they are plenty. Where a large ridge runs through a country, in other parts ever so well peopled, they find retreats, and breed prodigiously. Unless we can have the *Pyrenean millenium*, in which wolves and sheep, it seems, live together in worshipful society, I know not a speedy remedy. I lay not long ago, at the foot of the South Mountain, in York county, in this State, in a country very thickly settled, at the house of a Justice of Peace. Through the night I was kept awake by what I conceived to be a jubilee of dogs, assembled to bay the moon. But I was told in the morning, that what disturbed me, was only the common howling of wolves, which nobody there regarded.

When I entered the "Hall of Justice," I found the 'Squire giving judgment for the reward on two wolf whelps a countryman had taken from the bitch. The "judgment-seat" was shaken with the intelligence, that the she-wolf was coming—not to give bail—but to devote herself, or rescue her offspring. The animal was punished for this "daring contempt," committed in the face of the court, and was shot within an hundred yards of the tribunal. The storge had prompted her to go a little too far.

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Dogs are also formidable, too many being uselessly kept by the wealthy, and not a few by poor people, who do not feed them. The law is exactly the same as in England. But it is difficult to prove that the owner had the required *scienter* of his dog being accustomed to kill sheep. It is also difficult to discover the destroyer. He often reigns like an Achilles, but not so open in his feats of destruction. We suffer, therefore, the devastations committed by this nocturnal marauder, and see our slaughtered sheep,

> "Whose limbs, unburied on the naked shore,
> Devouring dogs and hungry vultures tore."

As to the law, our farmers are not fond of it, on such occasions. They think the first loss sufficient, and rather submit to the ravages of the "devouring dogs," than risque their purses being "torn" by those they dread as much as if they were "hungry vultures." In short, they prefer losing the value of their sheep, to being fleeced, as they suppose, in a prosecution for damages. If they discover the guilty dog, they proceed in a summary way—they shoot him, or otherwise put an end to his career. To multiply their chances of punishing the culprit, they often bring to the "lanterne," or "guillotine," a number of victims, as is sometimes done on more important occasions: a practice, however, not very justifiable, even in the case of dogs. It is doing justice as quickly, if not so reputably, as was done in England by their old court of "Trail-baton," which, as my Lord Coke says, was as rapid in its movements, "as one might draw, or traile, a staffe, or stycke."

We must establish such a court here, if the business of sheep-feeding is largely extended: and perhaps send for some Pyrenean wolves, to train our mountaineers to a little more civility. If this fails, we must turn our dogs upon them, and, as artful politicians treat their fellow-bipeds, keep ourselves safe, by stimulating one enemy to root out another, and so ruin both in the contest. Seriously, if we had the means of keeping large flocks, so as to employ shepherds, we might manage both wolves and dogs; but, at present, it is not an attainable object.

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PHILADELPHIA, September 1, 1793.

SIR,

Instead of commencing this letter with an apology, for suffering your favour of the 17th of last January to remain so long unacknowledged, I will refer you to the bearer, who is perfectly acquainted with my situation, for the reason why it has done so.

The bearer, Sir, is Mr. Lear, a gentleman who has been a member of my family seven years; and, until the present moment, my Secretary; consequently cannot, as I have observed before, be unknowing to the nature, and pressure of the business in which I am continually involved.

As a proof, however, that I have not been altogether inattentive to your commands, I inclose the result of Mr. Peters's answer to some inquiries of yours; and the copy also of a letter from Mr. Jefferson, to whom I had propounded for solution, other queries contained in your letter of the above date.

The documents I send, have the signature of these gentlemen annexed to them, but for your satisfaction only.

Mr. Peters is, as you will perceive by a vein in his letter, a man of humour. He is a theorist, and admitted one of the best practical farmers in this part of the state of Pennsylvania.

But, as it is not so much what the soil of this country actually produces, as what it is capable of producing by skilful management, that I conceive to be the object of your inquiry; and to know whether this produce would meet a ready market, and good prices; what the nature of the climate in general is; the temperature thereof in the different States; the quality, and prices of the lands, with the improvements thereon, in various parts of the Union; the prospects which are unfolding in each,

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&c. &c., I can do no better than refer you to the oral information of the bearer, who is a person of intelligence, and pretty well acquainted with the States, from New Hampshire, (inclusive) to Virginia; and one in whom you may, as I do, place entire confidence in all he shall relate of his own knowledge; and believe what is given from information, as it will be handed with caution.

Mr. Lear has been making arrangements for forming an extensive commercial establishment at the Federal City, on the river Potomac; and now goes to Europe, for the purpose of taking measures, there, to carry his plan into effect. I persuade myself, that any information you can give him respecting the manufactures of Great Britain, will be gratefully received; and, as I have a particular friendship for him, I shall consider any civilities shown him by you, as a mark of your politeness to,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

and very humble servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ.

PHILADELPHIA, December 12, 1793.

Sir,

I wrote to you three months ago, or more, by my late secretary and friend, Mr. Lear; but as his departure from this country for Great Britain, was delayed longer than he or I expected, it is at least probable that that letter will not have reached your hands at a much earlier period than the one I am now writing.

At the time it was written, the thoughts which I am now about to disclose to you, were not even in embryo: and whether, in the opinion of others, there be impropriety, or not, in communicating the object which has given birth to them, is not for me to decide. My own mind reproaches me with none; but if yours should view the sub-

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ject differently, burn this letter, and the draught which accompanies it, and the whole matter will be consigned to oblivion.

All my landed property, east of the Appalachian mountains, is under rent, except the estate called Mount Vernon. This, hitherto, I have kept in my own hands: but from my present situation, from my advanced time of life, from a wish to live free from care, and as much at my ease as possible, during the remainder of it, and from other causes, which are not necessary to detail, I have, latterly, entertained serious thoughts of letting this estate also, reserving the mansion-house farm for my own residence, occupation, and amusement in agriculture; provided I can obtain what, in my own judgment, and in the opinion of others whom I have consulted, the low rent which I shall mention hereafter; and provided also I can settle it with good farmers.

The quantity of ploughable land (including meadow), the relative situation of the farms to one another, and the division of these farms into separate inclosures, with the quantity and situation of the woodland appertaining to the tract, will be better delineated by the sketch herewith sent (which is made from actual surveys, subject, nevertheless, to revison and correction), than by a volume of words.

No estate in United America, is more pleasantly situated than this. It lies in a high, dry, and healthy country, three hundred miles by water from the sea, and, as you will see by the plan, on one of the finest rivers in the world. Its margin is washed by more than ten miles of tide-water; from the bed of which, and the innumerable coves, inlets, and small marshes, with which it abounds, an inexhaustible fund of rich mud may be drawn, as a manure, either to be used separately, or in a compost, according to the judgment of the farmer. It is situated in a latitude between the extremes of heat and cold, and is the same distance by land and water, with good roads, and the best navigation (to and) from the Federal City, Alexandria, and Georgetown; distant from the first, fifteen, from the second, nine, and from the last, sixteen miles. The Federal City, in the year 1800, will become the seat of the general government of the United States. It is increasing fast in buildings, and rising into

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consequence; and will, I have no doubt, from the advantages given to it by nature, and its proximity to a rich interior country, and the western territory, become the emporium of the United States.

The soil of the tract of which I am speaking, is a good loam, more inclined, however, to clay than sand. From use, and I might add, abuse, it is become more and more consolidated, and of course heavier to work. The greater part is a greyish clay; some part is a dark mould; a very little is inclined to sand, and scarcely any to stone. A husbandman's wish would not lay the farms more level than they are; and yet some of the fields (but in no great degree) are washed into gullies, from which all of them have not as yet been recovered.

This river, which encompasses the land the distance above-mentioned, is well supplied with various kinds of fish, at all seasons of the year; and, in the spring, with the greatest profusion of shad, herrings, bass, carp, perch, sturgeon, &c. Several valuable fisheries appertain to the estate; the whole shore, in short, is one entire fishery.

There are, as you will perceive by the plan, four farms besides that at the mansion-house. These four contain three thousand two hundred and sixty acres of cultivable land, to which some hundreds more, adjoining, as may be seen, might be added, if a greater quantity should be required; but as they were never designed for, so neither can it be said they are calculated to suit, tenants of either the first, or of the lower class; because those who have the strength and resources proportioned to farms of from five hundred to twelve hundred acres (which these contain), would hardly be contented to live in such houses as are thereon: and if they were to be divided and sub-divided, so as to accommodate tenants of small means, say from fifty to one or two hundred acres, there would be none, except on the lots which might happen to include the present dwelling-houses of my overlookers (called bailiffs with you), barns, and negro-cabins: nor would I choose to have the woodland (already too much pillaged of its timber) ransacked, for the purpose of building many more.

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The soil, however, is excellent for bricks, or for mud-walls; and to the building of such houses there would be no limitation, nor to that of thatch for the cover of them.

The towns already mentioned (to those who might incline to encounter the expense), are able to furnish scantling, plank, and shingles, to any amount, and on reasonable terms; and they afford a ready market also for the produce of the land.

On what is called Union Farm (containing nine hundred and twenty-eight acres of arable and meadow), there is a newly erected brick barn, equal, perhaps, to any in America, and for conveniences of all sorts, particularly for sheltering and feeding horses, cattle, &c. scarcely to be exceeded any where. A new house is now building in a central position, not far from the barn, for the overlooker, which will have two rooms, sixteen by eighteen feet below, and one or two above nearly of the same size. Convenient thereto, is sufficient accommodation for fifty odd negroes, old and young; but these buildings might not be thought good enough for the workmen, or day-labourers, of your country.

Besides these, a little without the limits of the farm (as marked in the plan) are one or two other houses, very pleasantly situated, and which, in case this farm should be divided into two (as it formerly was), would answer well for the eastern division. The buildings thus enumerated, are all that stand on the premises.

Dogue Run Farm (six hundred and fifty acres) has a small, but new building for the overlooker; one room only below, and the same above, sixteen by twenty feet each; decent and comfortable for its size. It has also covering for forty odd negroes, similar to what is mentioned on Union Farm. It has a new circular barn, now finishing, on a new construction; well calculated, it is conceived, for getting grain out of the straw more expeditiously than in the usual mode of threshing. There are good sheds also erecting, sufficient to cover thirty work-horses and oxen.

Muddy-hole Farm (four hundred and seventy six acres) has a house for the over-

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looker, in size and appearance nearly like that at Dogue Run, but older: the same kind of covering for about thirty negroes, and a tolerable good barn, with stables for the work-horses.

River Farm, which is the largest of the four, and separated from the others by Little Hunting Creek, contains twelve hundred and seven acres of ploughable land, has an overlooker's house of one large, and two small rooms below, and one or two above; sufficient covering for fifty or sixty negroes, like those before mentioned; a large barn, and stables, gone much to decay, but will be replaced next year, with new ones.

I have deemed it necessary to give this detail of the buildings, that a precise idea might be had of the conveniences and inconveniences of them; and I believe the recital is just in all its parts. The inclosures are precisely and accurately delineated in the plan; and the fences now are, or soon will be, in respectable order.

I would let these four farms to four substantial farmers, of wealth and strength sufficient to cultivate them, and who would ensure to me the regular payment of the rents; and I would give them leases for seven or ten years, at the rate of a Spanish milled dollar, or other money current at the time, in this country, equivalent thereto, for every acre of ploughable and mowable ground, within the inclosures of the respective farms, as marked in the plan; and would allow the tenants, during that period, to take fuel, and use timber from the woodland, to repair the buildings, and to keep the fences in order until live fences could be substituted in place of dead ones; but, in this case, no sub-tenants would be allowed.

Or if these farms are adjudged too large, and the rents, of course, too heavy for such farmers as might incline to emigrate, I should have no insuperable objection against dividing each into as many small ones, as a society of them, formed for the purpose, could agree upon, among themselves; even if it should be by the fields, as they are now arranged (which the plan would enable them to do), provided such buildings as

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they would be content with, should be erected at their own expense, in the manner already mentioned. In which case, as in the former, fuel, and timber for repairs, would be allowed; but, as an inducement to parcel out my grounds into such small tenements, and to compensate me, at the same time, for the greater consumption of fuel and timber, and for the trouble and expense of collecting small rents, I should expect a quarter of a dollar per acre, in addition to what I have already mentioned. But in order to make these small farms more valuable to the occupants, and by way of reimbursing them for the expense of their establishment thereon, I would grant them leases for fifteen or eighteen years; although I have weighty objections to the measure, founded on my own experience, of the disadvantage it is to the lessor, in a country where lands are rising every year in value. As an instance in proof, about twenty years ago, I gave leases for three lives, in land I held above the Blue Mountains, near the Shenandoah river, seventy miles from Alexandria, or any shipping port, at a rent of one shilling per acre (no part being then cleared); and now land of similar quality, in the vicinity, with very trifling improvements thereon, is renting, currently, at five, and more shillings per acre, and even as high as eight.

My motives for letting this estate having been avowed, I will add, that the whole (except the Mansion-House farm), or none, will be parted with, and that upon unequivocal terms; because my object is, to fix my income (be it what it may) upon a solid basis, in the hands of good farmers; because I am not inclined to make a medley of it; and, above all, because I could not relinquish my present course, without a moral certainty of the substitute which is contemplated: for to break up these farms, remove my negroes, and to dispose of the property on them, upon terms short of this, would be ruinous.

Having said thus much, I am disposed to add further, that it would be in my power, and certainly it would be my inclination (upon the principle above), to accommodate the wealthy, or the weak-handed farmer (and upon reasonable terms) with draught-horses, and working mules and oxen; with cattle, sheep, and hogs; and with such implements of husbandry, if they should not incline to bring them them-

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selves, as are in use on the farms. On the four farms there are fifty-four draught-horses, twelve working mules, and a sufficiency of oxen, broke to the yoke; the precise number I am unable this moment to ascertain, as they are comprehended in the aggregate of the black cattle: of the latter, there are three hundred and seventeen; of sheep, six hundred and thirty-four; of hogs, many; but as these run pretty much at large in the woodland (which is all under fence), the number is uncertain. Many of the negroes, male and female, might be hired by the year, as labourers, if this should be preferred to the importation of that class of people; but it deserves consideration, how far the mixing of whites and blacks together is advisable; especially where the former are entirely unacquainted with the latter.

If there be those who are disposed to take these farms in their undivided state, on the terms which have been mentioned, it is an object of sufficient magnitude for them, or one of them in behalf of the rest, to come over and investigate the premises thoroughly, that there may be nothing to reproach themselves, or me, with, if (though unintentionally) there should be defects in any part of the information herein given; or, if a society of farmers are disposed to adventure, it is still more incumbent on them to send over an agent, for the purpose above-mentioned; for with me the measure must be so fixed, as to preclude any cavil or discussion thereafter. And it may not be *mal apropos* to observe in this place, that our overlookers are generally engaged, and all the arrangements for the ensuing crops are made, before the first of September in every year: it will readily be perceived, then, that if this period is suffered to pass away, it is not to be regained until the next year. Possession might be given to the new-comers at the season just mentioned, to enable them to put in their grain for the next crop: but the final relinquishment could not take place until the crops are gathered; which of Indian corn (maize), seldom happens till towards Christmas, as it must endure hard frosts before it can be safely housed.

I have endeavoured, as far as my recollection of facts would enable me, or the documents in my possession allow, to give such information of the actual state of the farms, as to enable persons at a distance to form as distinct ideas as the nature of the

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thing is susceptible, short of one's own view: and having communicated the motives which have inclined me to a change in my system, I will announce to you the origin of them.

First. Few ships, of late, have arrived from any part of Great Britain, or Ireland, without a number of emigrants; and some of them, by report, very respectable and full-handed farmers. A number of others, they say, are desirous of following, but are unable to obtain passages; but their coming in that manner, even if I was apprized of their arrival in time, would not answer my views, for the reason already assigned; and which, as it is the ultimatum at present, I will take the liberty of repeating, namely, that I must carry my plan into complete execution, or not attempt it; and under such auspices, too, as to leave no doubt of the exact fulfilment: and,

2dly. Because from the number of letters which I have received myself, (and, as it would seem, from respectable people,) inquiring into matters of this sort, with intimations of their wishes, and even intentions, of migrating to this country, I can have no doubt of succeeding. But I have made no reply to these inquiries; or, if any, in very general terms; because I did not want to engage in correspondences of this sort with persons of whom I had no knowledge, nor indeed leisure for them, if I had been so disposed.

I shall now conclude as I began, with a desire, that if you see any impropriety in making these sentiments known to that class of people who might wish to avail themselves of the occasion, that it may not be mentioned. By a law, or by some regulation of your government, artisans, I am well aware, are laid under restraints; and, for this reason, I have studiously avoided any overtures to mechanics, although my occasions called for them. But never having heard that difficulties were thrown in the way of husbandmen by the government, is one reason for my bringing this matter to your view. A second is, that having yourself expressed sentiments which showed that you had cast an eye towards this country, and was not inattentive to the

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welfare of it, I was led to make my intentions known to you, that if you, or your friends, were disposed to avail yourselves of the knowledge, you might take prompt measures for the execution. And, 3dly, I was sure, if you had lost sight of the object yourself, I could, nevertheless, rely upon such information as you might see fit to give me, and upon such characters, too, as you might be disposed to recommend.

Lengthy as this espistle is, I will crave your patience while I add, that it is written in too much haste, and under too great a pressure of public business, at the commencement of an important session of Congress, to be correct, or properly digested. But the season of the year, and the apprehension of ice, are hurrying away the last vessel bound from this port to London. I am driven, therefore, to the alternative of making the matter known in this hasty manner, and giving a rude sketch of the farms, which is the subject of it; or to encounter delay—the first I preferred. It can hardly be necessary to add, that I have no desire that any formal promulgation of these sentiments should be made.

To accomplish my wishes, in the manner herein expressed, would be agreeable to me; and in a way that cannot be exceptionable, would be more so.

With much esteem and regard,

I am, Sir,

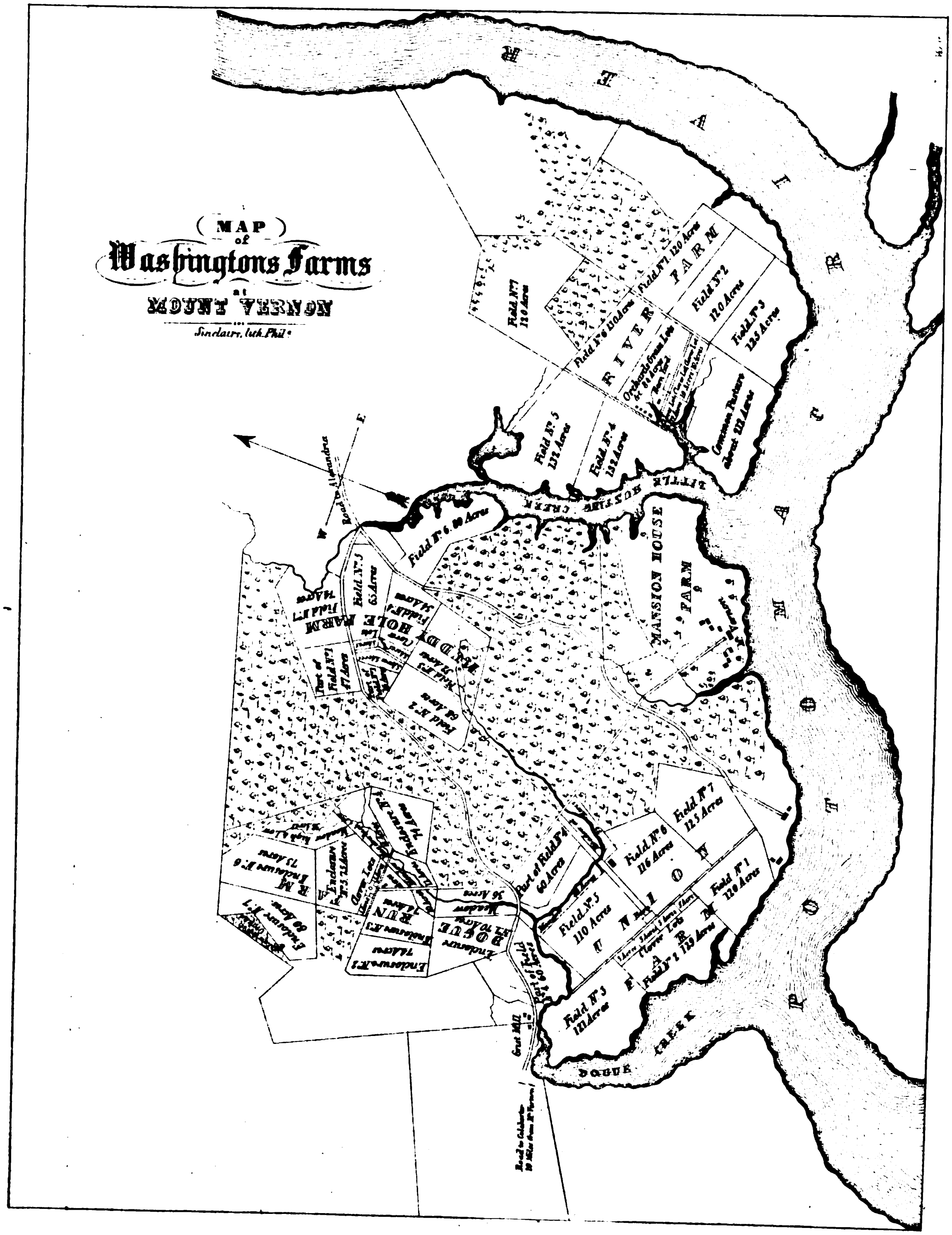
Your most obedient servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

ARTHUR YOUNG, ESQ.

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FARMS, AND THEIR CONTENTS.

UNION FARM.

Field, No. I.		120	acres.
"	II.	129	"
"	III.	121	"
"	IV.	120	"
"	V.	110	"
"	VI.	116	"
"	VII.	125	"
Meadow,	42		
"	25		
	—	67	"
Clover lots,		20	"
		—	928

MUDDY-HOLE FARM.

Field, No. I.		63	acres.
"	II.	68	"
"	III.	52	"
"	IV.	54	"
"	V.	65	"
"	VI.	80	"
"	VII.	74	"
Clover lots,		20	"
		—	
			476

DOGUE RUN FARM.

Field, No. I.		70	acres.
"	II.	74	"
"	III.	74	"
"	IV.	71	"
"	V.	75	"
"	VI.	73	"
"	VII.	80	"
Meadow,	38		"
"	18		"
"	12		"
"	10		"
"	36		"
	—	114	"
Clover lots,		18	"
		—	649

RIVER FARM.

Field, No. I.		120	acres.
"	II.	120	"
"	IV.	125	"
"	IV.	132	"
"	V.	132	"
"	VI.	130	"
"	VII.	120	"
Pasture,		212	"
Orchards, &c.		84	"
Clover lots,		32	"
		—	1207
Union Farm,			928
Dogue Run Farm,			649
Total of the four farms,			3260

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MOUNT VERNON ESTATE.

WASHINGTON'S domain at MOUNT VERNON included three distinct estates, and contained upwards of eight thousand acres, lying in a compact form, bounded on the east and south by the Potomac River.

THE MANSION HOUSE ESTATE, embraced the MANSION HOUSE FARM, and the UNION FARM, embodying about four thousand acres; and is one of the most beautiful estates in Virginia. He bequeathed this to his nephew, Judge BUSHROD WASHINGTON.

THE ESTATE embracing the RIVER FARM, lying east, and separated from the above by Little Hunting Creek, and bounded on two sides by the Potomac, which here bends around from its southern course to a western, contains two thousand and twenty-seven acres; which he left to his nephew, LAWRENCE AUGUSTINE WASHINGTON, and his grand-nephew, GEORGE FAYETTE WASHINGTON; to be equally divided between them.

THE THIRD ESTATE, which embraces the DOGUE RUN FARM, lies northwest of the Mansion House estate; and is that part of the domain bequeathed to his nephew, LAWRENCE LEWIS, (the son of his sister Betty,) who married ELEANOR PARK CUSTIS, the grand-daughter of MRS. WASHINGTON.

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North West View of the Mansion House at Washington

MOUNT VERNON.

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FAC SIMILES OF LETTERS

FROM HIS EXCELLENCY

GEORGE WASHINGTON

TO

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART., M.P.

ON

AGRICULTURAL AND OTHER INTERESTING TOPICS

ENGRAVED FROM THE ORIGINAL LETTERS

SO AS TO BE AN EXACT FAC SIMILE OF THE HANDWRITING.

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TO

THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES,

THE FOLLOWING

LETTERS

WRITTEN BY

THE ILLUSTRIOUS WASHINGTON,

WHO MUST EVER BE REVERED

AS

AN HONOUR TO THE COUNTRY WHERE HE WAS BORN

AND

AN ORNAMENT TO HUMAN NATURE,



ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY

THEIR SINCERE FRIEND AND WELL-WISHER,

JOHN SINCLAIR.

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PREFACE.

A VARIETY of motives, which it may be proper briefly to state, have induced me to submit the following Letters to the attention of the public.

It could not but be highly gratifying to me, to be possessed of so many interesting communications from such a distinguished character as the President of the United States; and it was natural to suppose, that the public at large, but more especially those individuals who revered his memory, would wish to have in their possession copies of a correspondence which displayed to such advantage the superior talents, the generous views, and the unbounded philanthropy of that celebrated statesman.

The peculiar predilection which General WASHINGTON has so strongly and so frequently expressed, in the subsequent letters, for agricultural improvement, which he preferred to every other pursuit, is another circumstance which I was anxious should be recorded for the benefit both of the present and of future times, from a desire that it may make a due impression upon the minds of those who might otherwise be induced to dedicate themselves entirely, either to the phantoms of military fame, or the tortures of political ambition.

The praises which this distinguished statesman has bestowed on the establishment of the British Board of Agriculture, ("an Institution," he remarks, "of the utility of

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which he entertained the most favourable idea from the first intimation of it; and that the more he had seen and reflected on the plan since, the more convinced he was of its importance, in a national point of view, not only to Great Britain, but to all other countries,") I was solicitous to record, as one means of protecting that valuable establishment from the risk to which it may be exposed from the ignorance or inattention of future ministers, who, incapable of estimating the merits of such an Institution themselves, or conceiving the advantages that may be derived from it, might heedlessly, either diminish the sphere of its utility, or terminate its existence.

The wishes which the founder of the American Republic has expressed for having a similar establishment in America, I also judged it expedient to publish, in the hope that the recommendation of so great a man will ultimately be adopted as soon as the necessary arrangements for that purpose can be made by the government of the United States.

It may now be proper to give a brief account of the origin of the following correspondence.

About the year 1790, I began to be engaged in those extensive inquiries relating to the general state of my native country, and the means of promoting its improvement, which were not only interesting to Great Britain, but to every civilized part of the world; and having resolved to send the first papers which were printed on those subjects to several distinguished characters in foreign and distant countries, I could not think of neglecting an individual so pre-eminently conspicuous as the President of the United States of America. In answer to the first letter I had the honour of addressing to him, I received the communication dated the 20th day of October, 1792.

I embraced every opportunity of transmitting, from time to time, the additional papers which were afterwards printed on the subjects of our correspondence, accom-

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panied by letters, of only one of which I have a copy, in which I endeavoured to demonstrate the advantages which might be derived from establishing a Board of Agriculture in America. Of that letter, I beg leave to subjoin the following extract, as it tends to explain more fully General WASHINGTON's answer of the 6th day of March, 1797, stating the circumstances which at that time prevented the immediate adoption of that measure.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM SIR JOHN SINCLAIR TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.

WHITEHALL, LONDON, 10th September, 1796.

* * * * * * * * * *

"The people of this country, as well as of America, learn, with infinite regret, that you propose resigning your situation as President of the United States. I shall not enter into the discussion of a question of which I am incompetent to judge; but, if it be so, I hope that you will recommend some agricultural establishment on a great scale before you quit the reins of government. By that, I mean a Board of Agriculture, or some similar institution, at Philadelphia, with Societies of Agriculture in the capital of each State, to correspond with it. Such an establishment would soon enable the farmers of America to acquire agricultural knowledge, and, what is of equal importance, afford them the means of communicating what they have learnt to their countrymen.

"I scarcely think that any government can be properly constituted without such an establishment. As mere individuals, four things are necessary: 1, food; 2, clothing; 3, shelter; 4, mental improvement. As members of a large community, four other particulars seem to be essential, namely: 1, property; 2, marriage; 3, laws for our direction in this world; and, 4, religion to prepare us for another. But the foundation of the whole is *food*, and that country must be the happiest where that *sine qua non* can be most easily obtained. The surest means of securing abundance of food, however, is by ascertaining the best mode of raising it, and rousing a

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spirit of improvement for that purpose, for both of which the countenance and protection of the government of a country, through the medium of some public establishment, is essential. The trifling expense for which such an institution might be supported is another argument in its favour.

"I am induced more particularly to dwell upon this circumstance, as it might be in my power, on various occasions, to give useful hints to America, were I satisfied that they would be duly weighed, and if approved of, acted upon. For instance, you will herewith receive some Egyptian wheat, which produces at the rate of one hundred and eighty bushels per English acre. Indeed, without such a grain, so narrow a country as Egypt could never have fed such multitudes of people as it did in ancient times. I have no doubt of its thriving in America equally well. It also recently occurred to me, that in the Southern States, other plants, as the New Zealand kind of hemp, might be raised in great perfection. But to introduce any new article of produce, the countenance, and in some cases, the assistance of the government of a state is necessary. When once, however, the practicability of cultivating any article is ascertained, it cannot be of any real advantage to a nation if it stand in need of legislative aid.

"But I have already tired your Excellency with too long a dissertation, which I am persuaded you will attribute to its real cause, enthusiasm in favour of Agriculture, and respect for so valuable a friend to it as General WASHINGTON. For other particulars, I must refer to our intelligent friend, Doctor Edwards, to whose charge I have taken the liberty of delivering a parcel, with some papers we have lately printed, &c.

"It will give me much pleasure to be of any use to Mr. King, Mr. Gore, or Mr. Pinckney, during their residence in England. Indeed, I have always felt a strong desire of showing every attention in my power to any American gentleman who may have visited this country; for though our governments are now distinct, the people

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are in fact the same, without any possible inducement to quarrel, if they knew their respective interests, and with every reason to wish each other well, and to promote their mutual prosperity.

"Before I conclude, permit me to ask, is there no chance of seeing General WASHINGTON in England? I should be proud of his accepting an apartment in my house, and I am sure that he would meet with the most flattering reception in every part of the Island, but from none with more real attachment and regard, than from, &c."

As it is a singular circumstance, that a person in such an exalted situation as General WASHINGTON, should have leisure to write, with his own hand, so many letters to an entire stranger, and some of them of considerable length, I have been induced to have them engraved, in order to represent the hand-writing of their celebrated author: they are exact copies of those received by me. It is proposed to deposit the originals in the British Museum, as the precious relics of a great man, fit to be preserved in that valuable repository.

It may be proper to add, that the following collection contains all the letters I have received, with the exception of two, the first of which was marked private, and is mentioned in General WASHINGTON'S letters of the 15th of July, and 6th of November, 1797. It is a long and interesting paper, which, however, it would not be proper to publish at this time. The other letter was of a late date, and alludes to circumstances of a nature which it would be improper at present to communicate to the public.

To conclude, I hope that these letters will not only furnish much satisfactory information to the reader, as containing the sentiments of General WASHINGTON on agricultural and other important subjects, but will also display, to peculiar advantage, the character of the much respected author; and with the profits of the publi-

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cation I trust it will be in my power to pay a proper tribute of respect to the memory of one, who, though the immediate cause of the separation between Great Britain and America, yet is the person to whom, in a great measure, is to be ascribed the good understanding which now so happily subsists between the two countries; and whose character must ever be revered, even by those with whom he contended, either in war or politics, as containing as much good, with as little alloy, as that of any individual whose memory is recorded in history.

LONDON, 29 PARLIAMENT STREET, 1st March, 1800.

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SINCE THIS WORK WAS SENT TO THE PRESS, I FIND THAT ONE OF GENERAL WASHINGTON'S MOST INTERESTING LETTERS HAS BEEN LOST. THERE IS FORTUNATELY, HOWEVER, AN EXTRACT FROM IT IN THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE COMMUNICATIONS PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, [P. 374,] A COPY OF WHICH I BEG LEAVE TO LAY BEFORE THE READER, FROM THAT PUBLICATION.

PHILADELPHIA, 10th December, 1796.

* * * * * * * * * *

"The result of the experiments entrusted to the care of Dr. Fordyce, must be as curious as they may prove interesting to the science of husbandry. Not less so will be an intelligent solution of those queries relative to live stock, which are handed to the public.

"A few months more, say the 3d of March next, (1797,) and the scenes of my political life will close, and leave me in the shades of retirement; when, if a few years are allowed me to enjoy it, (many I cannot expect, being upon the verge of sixty-five,) and health is continued to me, I shall peruse with pleasure and edification the fruits of the exertions of the Board for the improvement of agriculture; and shall have leisure, I trust, to realize some of the useful discoveries which have been made in the science of husbandry.

"Until the above period shall have arrived, and particularly during the present session of Congress, which commenced the 5th instant, I can give but little attention to matters out of the line of my immediate avocations. I did not, however, omit the occasion, at the opening of the session, to call the attention of that body to the importance of agriculture. What will be the result, I know not at present; but if it should be favourable, the hints which you will have it in your power to give, cannot fail of being gratefully received by the members who may constitute the Board."

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Philadelphia Oct 12 20: 1792

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 18th of May, enclosing the Pamphlet & papers which you had the goodness to send me. —

While I keep your acceptance of my acknowledgment for the polite mark of attention in transmitting these things to me, I flatter myself you will be assured that I consider the subject therein recommended as highly important to society, whose best interests I hope will be promoted by a proper investigation of them, and the happiness of mankind advanced thereby. —

I have to regret that the duties of my public station do not allow me to pay that attention to Agriculture and the objects attached to it (which have ever been my favourite pursuit) that I could wish; but I will put your

queries

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queries respecting Sheep into the hands of such Gentlemen as I think most likely to attend to them and answer them satisfactorily; I must however observe that no important information on the subject can be expected from this Country where we have been so little in the habit of attending either to the breed or improvement of our Stock

With great respect & esteem
I have the honor to be
Sir—
Your Most Obed.t Serv.t
Geo. Washington

Sir John Sinclair

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Sir John Sinclair Baronet

Whitehall,

London.



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Philadelphia July 20. 1794.

Sir

I am indebted to you for your several favors of the 15th of June, 15th of August & 11th of September of the last - and for that of the 6th of February in the present year; - for which, and the Pamphlets accompanying them my thanks are particularly due. — To say this and to have suffered them to remain so long unacknowledged, needs explanation. — The truth is, they came to hand - the first of them - about the opening, and the second set towards the close of a long and interesting Session of Congress, during which my time was very much occupied, and at the end thereof I had a pressing call to my estate in Virginia from whence I have not been returned more than ten or twelve days. —

I have read with peculiar pleasure and approbation, the work you

you patronise, so much to your own honor and the utility of the public. — Such a general view of the Agriculture in the several Counties of Great Britain is extremely interesting; and cannot fail of being very beneficial to the Agricultural concern of your Country and to those of every other wherein they are read, and must entitle you to their warmest thanks for having set such a plan on foot, and for prosecuting it with the zeal & intelligence you do. —

I am so much pleased with the plan & execution myself, as to pray you to have the goodness to direct your Bookseller to continue, to forward them to me, accompanied with the cost which shall be paid to his order or remitted so soon as the amount is made known to me. — When the whole are received I will promote, as far as in me lays, the reprinting of them here. —

I know of no pursuit in which more real & important service can be rendered to any Country, than by improving its Agriculture — its breed of useful animals — and other branches of a husbandman's

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bardmans cares,— nor can I conceive any plan more conducive to this end than the one you have introduced for bringing to view the actual state of them, in all parts of the Kingdom; by which good & bad habits are exhibited in a manner too plain to be misconceived; for the accounts given to the British board of Agriculture, appear in general, to be drawn up in a masterly manner, so as fully to answer the expectations formed in the excellent plan wch produced them; affording at the same time a fund of information useful in political economy — serviceable in all countries

Commons — Tithes — Tenantry (of which we feel nothing in this country) are in the list of impediments I perceive, to perfection in English farming — and taxes are heavy deductions from the [redacted] profit thereof — of these we have none, or so light as hardly to be felt. — Your system of Agriculture, it must be confessed, is in a stile superior & of course much more expensive than ours, but when the balance at

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the end of the year is struck, by deducting the taxes, poor rates, and incidental charges of every kind, from the produce of the land, in the two countries, no doubt can remain in which scale it is to be found.

It will be sometime I fear, before an agricultural Society with Congressional aids will be established in this Country; - we must walk as other countries have done before we can run, smaller Societies must prepare the way for greater but with the lights before us, I hope we shall not be so slow in maturation as older nations have been. - An attempt, as you will perceive by the enclosed outlines of a plan, is making to establish a State Society in Pennsylvania for agricultural improvements. - If it succeeds, it will be a step in the ladder, at present it is too much in embryo to decide on the result. -

Our domestic animals, as well as our agriculture, are inferior to yours in point of size but this does not proceed from any defect in the stamina of the, but

but to deficient care in providing for their support; experience having abundantly evinced that where our pastures are as well improved as the soil & climate will admit, — where a competent store of wholesome provender is laid up and proper care used in serving it, that our horses, black cattle, Sheep &c.ª are not inferior to the best of their respective kinds which have been imported from England. — Nor is the wool of our Sheep inferior to that of the common sort with you: — as a proof — after the Peace of Paris in 1783, and my return to the occupations of a farmer, I paid particular attention to my breed of Sheep (of which I usually kept about seven or eight hundred). — By this attention, at the shearing of 1789, the fleeces yielded me the average quantity of 5¼ lb. of wool, — a fleece of which promiscuously taken, I sent to Mr. Arthur Young, who put it, for examination, into the hands of Manufacturers. — These pronounced it to be equal in quality to the Spanish Wool. — In this same year, i.e.

1789

1789 I was again called from home, and have not had it in my power since to pay any attention to my farm; - the consequence of which is, that my Sheep, at the last shearing, yielded me not more than 2½ lbs. - This is not a single instance of the difference between care and neglect. - Nor is the difference between good & bad management confined to that species of Stock; for we find that good pastures and proper attention, can & does, fill our markets with beef of seven, eight & more hundred weight the four quarters; whereas from 450 to 500 (especially in the States South of this where less attention hitherto has been paid to grass) may be found about the average weight. - In this market, some Bullocks were killed in the months of March & April last, the weights of which, as taken from the accounts which were published at the time, you will find in a paper enclosed. - These were pampered steers, but from 800 to a thousand, the four quarters, is no uncommon weight,

Your

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Your general history of sheep, with observations thereon, and the proper mode of managing them, will be a interesting work when completed, and with the information & accuracy I am persuaded it will be executed, under your auspices, must be extremely desirable. — The climate of this country, particularly that of the middle states is congenial to this species of animal, but want of attention to them in most farmers, added to the obstacles which prevent the importation of ~~[illegible]~~ a better breed, by men who would bear the expence, contributes not a little to the present inferiority we experience. —

Mr Edwards would have it as much in his power as most of our farmers, to solve the queries you propounded to him; — In addition to which a gentleman of my acquaintance, who is also among the best farmers of this County, ~~[illegible]~~ to whom I gave the perusal of your propositions, has favored me with some ideas on the subject, as you will

will find on a paper, herewith enclosed
The sample you were so obliging
as to put into the hands of Mr. Lee, for
me, of a Scotch fabric, is extremely ele-
gant, and I pray you to accept my thanks
for it, as I entreat you also to do for the
civilities shewn to that gentlemen, who
has a grateful sense of them. —
Both Mr. Adams and Mr. Jeffer
son had the perusal of the papers which
accompanied your note of the 11th of Sep
With great respect and esteem
I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Obed. Serv.
Go. Washington

Philadelphia 10th July 1795

Sir,

I could not omit so favorable an opportunity, as the departure of Mr Strickland affords me, of presenting my best respects to you; and my sincere thanks for the views of Agriculture in the different countries of Great Britain, which you have had the goodness to send me. — and for the Diploma (received by the hands of Mr Jay) admitting me a foreign honorary member of the board of Agriculture.

For this testimony of the attention of that body, and for the honor it has conferred on me, I have a high sense; in communicating of which to the board, I shall rely more on your goodness than on any expression of mine to render it acceptable. —

Yours

From the first intimation you were pleased to give me of this Institution, I conceived the most favorable ideas of its utility; — and the more I have seen & reflected on the plan since, the more convinced I am of its importance, in a national point of view, not only to your own country, but to all others which are not too much attached to old & bad habits, to forsake them, and to new countries that are just beginning to form systems for the improvement of their husbandry. —

Mr Strickland has not been idle since he came to this country. — To him therefore, for a description of the climate, — the soil — the agriculture, and improvements generally; — the modes of carrying them on; — the produce of the land; — the draught cattle; — domestic animals; — and the farming implements which are used by our people in the Eastern and middle States, through which he has passed I shall refer you. — Nothing I believe, has

has escaped his observation that merited notice. —

You will add to the obligations already conferred on me, by directing your Bookseller to supply me regularly with all such proceedings of the board as are intended for the public, - and when they are in a fit state for it, that they may be neatly bound. — To this request, I pray he may be desired to add the cost, which shall be paid at sight, to his order here, or remitted to him as may be most convenient and agreeable to himself. —

The remainder of this letter was merely a conclusion in the usual terms, and is wanting, having been cut off, and given to a Gentleman, who requested it as a particular favour, "there being "nothing, he declared, which he wished "for more, than to have in his possession "a Specimen of the hand writing, and "above all the signature, of the illustrious "Washington". — London. 10th Feby. 1800.

John Sinclair

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Philadelphia 20th Feby 1796

Sir,

When I last had the hon or of writing to you, I had hopes - tho' I must confess they were not of the most sanguine sort - that I should have been enabled ere this, to have given you a more satisfactory account of the business you had been pleased to commit to me than will be conveyed in this letter. —

Doubts having arisen, from peculiar calls on the Treasury of this country for money (occasioned by the expences of our Wars with the Indians - the redemption of our captives at Algiers - obtaining peace with that Regency & Morocco - together with other demands in addition to the ordinary expenditures of government) that funds with difficulty would be provided to answer them, without imposing additional taxes - a measure wished to be avoided - I was restrained (after consulting one or two influencial members of the Legislature) from introducing

cing your plan for a contribution:- and, under these circumstances - I avoided communicating the "Extracts from the minutes "of the proceedings, of the Board of Agricul: "ture, respecting Mr. Elkingtons mode of "draining, &c^a" except to one gentleman only, in whom I had entire confidence, and who I knew was always disposed to pro: mote measures of utility.- These being the grounds of my proceeding, I shall hope, altho your expectations may be disappointed you will receive the infor mation as an evidence of my candour.-

Agreeably to your desire I have put the "Outlines of the 15 Chapter of "the proposed general report from the "Board of Agriculture, on the subject of "Manures," into the hands of one of the most judicious farmers within my reach, and when his observations thereon are received, they shall be transmitted to you - I wish my own engagements would allow me time to attend, more than I do, to these agreeable, and useful pursuits; but having been absent from what I con

sider

sider my proper home (except on short oc-
casional visits) for more than seven years;
- and having entered into my 65th. year -
a period which requires tranquillity and
ease. I have come to a determination to
lease the farms of my Mount Vernon
Estate, except the Mansion house farm &
a grazing one 3 miles off; which I shall
retain in my own occupation - for amuse
ment, whilst life & health is dispensed
to me. - And as many farmers from yr.
country have emigrated to this, and many
more, according to their accounts, desirous
of following, if they knew beforehand, where
and on what terms they could fix themselves
compactly in a healthy & populous country,
I have taken the liberty to enclose you the
copy of a notification which I have pub-
lished in some of the Gazettes of the United
States; that in case any farmers assur-
ing the descriptions therein contained ar
about to transplant themselves, to whom
you might be inclined to give the informa
tion, that you may have it in your power
to do so, - But let me entreat you, Sr

Fo

to believe, that I have no wish to its promulgation farther than I have declared, - that I have no intention to invite emigrants, even if there are no restrictive acts against it - and if there be, that I am opposed to it altogether. -

As Wheat is the staple produce of that part of the country in which this estate lyes, I shall fix the rent therein, at a bushel & half for every acre of arable land contained within the lease; - to be discharged, in case of failure of that crop, at the price the article bears in the market. - Two or three years ago I sent Mr Young a sketch of these farms, with all the fields, meads & Lots, with their relative situations, laid down from actual surveys:

I have but little expectation that arrangements will be made by the time limitted, for giving possession of the farms next year; nor should I wish to do it with such unskilful farmers as ours, if there was a prospect of obtaining them from any other country where husbandry was better understood, & more advantageously practiced. - It is time however to conclude, - for I feel ashamed at having employed so much of it, in matters interesting to myself only; & I shall do it with assurances as sincere as they are warm of being - Sir Your most Obed.t & Obliged Ser.t

Sir John Sinclair Bar.t

G Washington

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Philadelphia 12th June 1796

Sir,

A long and interesting Session of Congress - which did not close until the first day of this month - and the Laws which required to be carried into execution promptly; - will, I am persuaded, be admitted as a reasonable excuse for my not writing to you since the 20th of Feb.y last agreeably to assurances then given - But what apology can I offer now. that I am about to give you the result of the enquiries you requested me to make, what it will be found to fall so far short of what you might have expected, from the time which has been taken, to render it?

Your wishes on this head, I communicated to Richard Peters Esq.r 2d who is one of the most intelligent, and best

practical

practical, as well as theoretical farmers we have; with a desire that he would advise with others, and condense their observations in a summary statement.— Why this was not done — and why he could do no more — you will find in his own, original letter, with the questions and answers therein enclosed. —

To Mr. Peters's experience with respect to Gypsum as a manure; let me add the following, as an unequivocal evidence that it has no effect on stiff, heavy land — that does not absorb, or permit the water on the surface, occasioned by super abundant falls of Rain or Snow, to penetrate quickly; — which is the case, generally, with the Soil of my Estate, at Mount Vernon. — The experiment, ~~[illegible]~~ & proof to which I allude, were made eight or nine years ago, at the rate of from one to twenty bushels of the Plaster of Paris to the acre (among other things, to ascertain the just quantum to be used) — I spread it

it on grass grounds, and on ploughed land.— On the latter, part of it was ploughed in;- part harrowed in;- part scratched in with a light bush,- while another part lay undisturbed, on the surface — all with oats, in the Spring.— But it had no more effect in any instance - then, or since, than so much of the earth it was spread over would have had, if it had been taken up & spread again

If any thing should hereafter occur on this, or any other subject, which I may think worthy your attention, in this interesting branch of your pursuits, I shall not fail to communicate them to you;- being with very great esteem, respect & consideration

Sir, Your most Obed.t and Very H.ble Serv.t

G. Washington

Sir John Sinclair

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Philadelphia 6th March 1797.

Sir,

On the 11th of Decr I wrote you a long letter; and intended before the close of the last Session of Congress (which ended on the third instant, conformably to the Constitution) to have addressed you again, but oppressed as I was with the various occurrences incident thereto, especially in the latter part of it, it has not been in my power to do so during its continuance; and now the arrangements necessary to my departure from this City—for a more tranquil Theatre, and for the indulgence of Rural pursuits, will oblige me to suspend my purpose until I am fixed at Mount Vernon, where I expect soon to be; having resigned the Chair of Government to Mr. Jno. Adams on friday last, the day on which I completed my Second four years administration.—

Under

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Under the circumstances here mentioned, I should not have troubled you, at this time with so short a letter but for the purpose of accompanying it with two or three Pamphlets on the subject of Agriculture; one of which treats more extensively on Gypsum as a manure that any I have seen before. — The other two will only serve to shew, that essays of a similar kind are making in this infant country. —

I am sorry to add, that nothing final in Congress, has been decided respecting the institution of a National board of Agriculture, recommended by me, at the opening of the Session. — But this did not, I believe, proceed from any disinclination to the measure, but from their limited sitting, and a pressure of what they conceived, more important business. — I think it highly probable that next Session will bring this matter to maturity.

With the highest esteem & respect
I have the honor to be
Sir
Yr most Hble & Obt Servt

Sir John Sinclair Bart.

G. Washington

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Sir John Sinclair Baronet

Whitehall

London



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Mount Vernon 15 July 1797.

Sir

Since my last to you, dated in Philadelphia the 6th of March, I have been honoured with yours and Lord Hawke's joint favour of the 28th of March 1796 introductory of Doct. Scandella; who gave me the pleasure of his company in June last, and whom I found a very sensible, and well informed man. —

I have also received your seperate favours of the 21st of February and 29th. of March, in the present year. The last accompanying your printed account of the origin of the Board of Agriculture and its progress for the three years after its establishment. — For your kindness in forwarding them, I pray you to accept my best thanks

I will keep one copy of this work myself, and shall read it, I am sure with pleasure, so soon as I have passed through my harvest, which is now nearly finished, — the other copies shall

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shall be put into such hands as I con
ceive will turn them to the best account.

Your not having, in either of
the letters acknowledged above, mentio=
ned the receipt of two from me dated
the 10th & 11th of Dec.r 1796. the last a priate
and very long one, filled my mind with
apprehension of a miscarriage, altho'
I do not see how it should have hap=
pened, as they went with several other
letters under cover to Mr Kemp (our
Minister in London) who in a letter
to me, dated the 6.th of February follow
ing after giving information of what
he had done with my other letters, adds
" and as soon as Sir John Sinclair re
" turns to town I will also deliver the
" letter addressed to him".—

Was it not for this information
I should, by this conveyance, have
forwarded a duplicate.—

The result of my enquiries
of Members of Congress, attending the
December Session, varied so little from
the details I had the honour to give
you concerning the prices of Land.—
in my priate letter of the of December
as

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as to render a second edition unnecessary. — The reduction however, in the price of our produce since last year, (flour having fallen from fifteen to seven or eight dollars a barrel, and other articles in that proportion) may occasion a fall in the price of Lands — a stagnation it has already produced — and shall have been told a reduction also, in some of the latter sales. —

Our Crop of Wheat this year, from the best information I have been able to obtain, will be found very short, — owing to three causes; — an uncommon drought last autumn, — a severe winter with but little snow to protect it, — and which is still more to be regretted, — to what, with us is denominated the Hessian fly, which has spread devastation, more or less, in all quarters: — nor has the latter wheat escaped the rust, — The grain however, except where the Rust appeared before it was hard, is extremely fine, — We are equally unlucky in our Oats, occasioned by a severe drought since the month of April.

With sentiments of high esteem & regard, I have the honor to be Sir Your most Obed.t H.ble Servant

Sir John Sinclair G. Washington

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Mount Vernon 6th Nov.r 1797

Sir

Since I had the honor of visiting you on the 15th of July, I have been favored with your letter of the 13th of Feb.y introductory of Thos. M.Macdonald Esq.r and your note of the 9th of June by Genl. Kosciuske, together with the Surveys, and papers accompanying both. — For your goodness in sending them, I pray you to accept my best thanks, and that I may not be a burthensome member of the Board, I enclose a small Bill of Exchange to be deposited in the hands of your Bookseller to defray the cost of the several copies of your works which may be forwarded to me. — When this is expended, I will make another deposit for the same purpose.

As neither of the notes, the receipt of which is acknowledged above — nor any other, has intimated in the most distant manner that my letters of the 10th and 11th of December (the latter a private one) had ever reached

reached your hand, I now do, as well for the purpose of evincing that I was not inattentive to your request, as to give information which may yet (though late) be useful, for I send a duplicate of the private letter from a Press copy taken at the time, and of my last also, of the 15th. of July; being more disposed to trouble you with a repetion of the sentiments then expressed than to lay under the suspicion of inattention to y.r comm.ds

I can now, with more certainty than on the 15th of July, inform you that Lands have fallen in price, - ascribable to two causes, the shocking depredations committed on our Commerce (within the last six or eight months by the French) and the reduction in price of our produce - Both contributing to render Cash a scarce, and of course a valuable article. -

Our Crops of Grain are, in places, tolerable, but upon the whole below mediocrity in quantity, whilst the Staple is fine. - This also, that is the shortness of the Crop will assist in reducing the price of land still lower -

An eight years absence from home (- except

(except occasional short visits to it) has thrown my building -, and other matters of private concern, into so much disorder, that at no period of my life have I ever been more engaged than in the last six or eight months to repair & bring them into tune again. This has prevented me from looking into the Agricultural Surveys of the Counties of England & Scotland with the attention I propose to do the ensuing Winter. I shall certainly be very desirous of having a compleat set of them, and if any are missing will apply accordingly - as it is my intention to have them bound, neatly. - With great pleasure I received a visit from Mr Macdonald a few days ago, who fully answers the character given of him, as a polite & sensible man.

With great respect & the high est esteem & regard, I have the honor to be - Sir, Your Most Obed.t and obliged H.ble Serv.t

G.o Washington

Sir John Sinclair
Baronet

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REMARKS ON THE CHARACTER OF WASHINGTON.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.

WHOEVER has perused the preceding Letters will, I trust, concur with me in the following reflections.

1. That nothing could possibly place the character of this distinguished statesman in a more estimable light, than that of beholding the same individual, whose military exploits had spread his fame over the universe, and who had been invested with supreme power in the country where he was born, in the midst of all his various public avocations, carrying on an extensive correspondence with a native of a distant country, on agricultural and other general inquiries of a similar nature.

2. That those who are blest with a reflecting and philosophic mind, must contemplate with pleasure and delight a person, elevated by the voice of his fellow-citizens to the summit of political authority, who, instead of wishing to aggrandize himself, and to extend his power, was anxiously bent to quit that situation, to which so many others would have fondly aspired, and to return to the comfort and enjoyment of private life; belying thus the insinuations of those malignant spirits who are perpetually railing against the talents and virtues which, conscious of wanting themselves, they do not believe that others can possess.

3. Is there, on the whole, any individual, either in ancient or modern history, who has prouder claims to distinction and pre-eminence, than the great character whose letters this volume contains? His military talents were early celebrated; first in the

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service of Great Britain, and afterwards in that of America. His powers as a statesman, and as the founder of a Constitution, which, with British prejudices, I may consider as inferior to our own, but which promises to secure the happiness of the great nation it was formed to govern, cannot possibly be questioned. His public virtue, as the uncorrupted magistrate of a free people, who reluctantly received supreme authority, when it was judged necessary for the public good for him to assume it, and who anxiously wished to resign it into their hands, when it could be done with public safety, can hardly be equalled in history. His literary endowments were unquestionably of a superior order. His letters in this collection, his addresses to the American Congress, and his farewell oration when he quitted, for the last time, the Presidency of the United States, are models of each species of composition. His closing a well-spent life, after a short illness, without having his strength or faculties impaired by any previous disorder, or any untoward circumstances having occurred that could materially affect his feelings, or could possibly tarnish his fame, is an uncommon instance of good fortune. The scene in which he acted also, and the object which he achieved, are the most memorable which history furnishes. For it was such a man alone, who, by combining the force and commanding the confidence of thirteen separate States, could have dissolved those ties which subjected America to Europe, and to whom the political separation of two worlds is to be attributed. But, above all, what distinguished this celebrated warrior and statesman is, that to all those military and public talents, and to those literary endowments, which are so rarely united in the same person, he added the practice of every virtue that could adorn the private individual. It were in vain for me to attempt adequately to express the ideas I entertain of a character, in every respect so peculiarly splendid. The pen of the immortal Shakspeare is alone competent to the task, and on the tombstone of the illustrious WASHINGTON let it be engraved—

> His life was gentle, and the elements
> So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up
> And say to all the world,—THIS WAS A MAN,
> ——————TAKE HIM FOR ALL IN ALL,
> WE SHALL NOT LOOK UPON HIS LIKE AGAIN.

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OFFICIAL AND PARTICULAR ACCOUNT OF THE

ILLNESS AND DEATH OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS WASHINGTON,

AS PUBLISHED BY THE PHYSICIANS WHO ATTENDED HIM.

SOME time in the night of Friday, the 13th December, having been exposed to a rain on the preceding day, General WASHINGTON was attacked with an inflammatory affection of the upper part of the windpipe, called in technical language, *cynanche trachealis*. The disease commenced with a violent ague, accompanied with some pain in the upper and fore part of the throat, a sense of stricture in the same part, a cough, and a difficult rather than a painful deglutition, which were soon succeeded by fever, and a quick and a laborious respiration. The necessity of blood-letting suggesting itself to the General, he procured a bleeder in the neighbourhood, who took from his arm, in the night, twelve or fourteen ounces of blood. He would not by any means be prevailed upon by the family to send for the attending physician till the following morning, who arrived at Mount Vernon at about eleven o'clock on Saturday. Discovering the case to be highly alarming, and foreseeing the fatal tendency of the disease, two consulting physicians were immediately sent for, who arrived, one at half after three, the other at four o'clock in the afternoon. In the interim were employed two copious bleedings, a blister was applied to the part affected, two moderate doses of calomel were given, and an injection was administered, which operated on the lower intestines—but all without any perceptible advantage, the respiration becoming still more difficult and distressing.

Upon the arrival of the first of the consulting physicians, it was agreed, as there were yet no signs of accumulation in the bronchial vessels of the lungs, to try the

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result of another bleeding, when about thirty-two ounces of blood were drawn, without the smallest apparent alleviation of the disease. Vapours of vinegar and water were frequently inhaled; ten grains of calomel were given, succeeded by repeated doses of emetic tartar, amounting in all to five or six grains, with no other effect than a copious discharge from the bowels. The powers of life seemed now manifestly yielding to the force of the disorder. Blisters were applied to the extremities, together with a cataplasm of bran and vinegar to the throat. Speaking, which was painful from the beginning, now became almost impracticable; respiration grew more and more contracted and imperfect, till half after eleven o'clock on Saturday night, retaining the full possession of his intellect, when he expired without a struggle.

He was fully impressed at the beginning of his complaint, as well as through every succeeding stage of it, that its conclusion would be mortal; submitting to the several exertions made for his recovery rather as a duty, than from any expectation of their efficacy. He considered the operations of death upon his system as coeval with the disease; and several hours before his decease, after repeated efforts to be understood, succeeded in expressing a desire that he might be permitted to die without interruption.

During the short period of his illness, he economized his time in the arrangement of such few concerns as required his attention, with the utmost serenity, and anticipated his approaching dissolution with every demonstration of that equanimity for which his whole life has been so uniformly and singularly conspicuous.

JAMES CRAIK, Attending Physician.
ELISHA C. DICK, Consulting Physician.

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THE MELANCHOLY EVENT OF WASHINGTON'S DEATH WAS ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM MR. LEAR.

MOUNT VERNON, Dec. 16, 1799.

SIR,

It is with inexpressible grief that I have to announce to you the death of the great and good General WASHINGTON. He died last evening between ten and eleven o'clock, after a short illness of about twenty-four hours. His disorder was an inflammatory sore thoat, which proceeded from a cold, of which he made but little complaint on Friday. On Saturday morning about three o'clock he became ill. Dr. Dick attended him in the morning, and Dr. Craik, of Alexandria, and Dr. Brown, of Port Tobacco, were soon after called in. Every medical assistance was afforded, but without the desired effect. His last scene corresponded with the whole tenor of his life. Not a groan, not a complaint escaped him in extreme distress. With perfect resignation, and a full possession of his reason, he closed his well spent life.

TOBIAS LEAR.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is unnecessary to add, that the intelligence of this distressing event was rapidly spread throughout all America, and received with the deepest symptoms of sorrow and regret; nor was there any part of Europe, where those who felt any respect for integrity and virtue, did not consider the death of General WASHINGTON as a public calamity.

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TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

THE desire, expressed by WASHINGTON in his will, for the removal of the family vault, in consequence of its decay and improper situation, has been fully complied with. A new tomb was erected in 1831, on the side of a steep sloping hill, having a southern exposure, upon a thickly wooded dell; being the spot marked out by him, and designated as the "foot of the Vineyard Enclosure." It is built of brick, the walls rising eight feet from the ground, and arched over; the front is roughcast, and has a plain iron door with a strong casement of freestone. Over the door is a stone panel inscribed with these words:

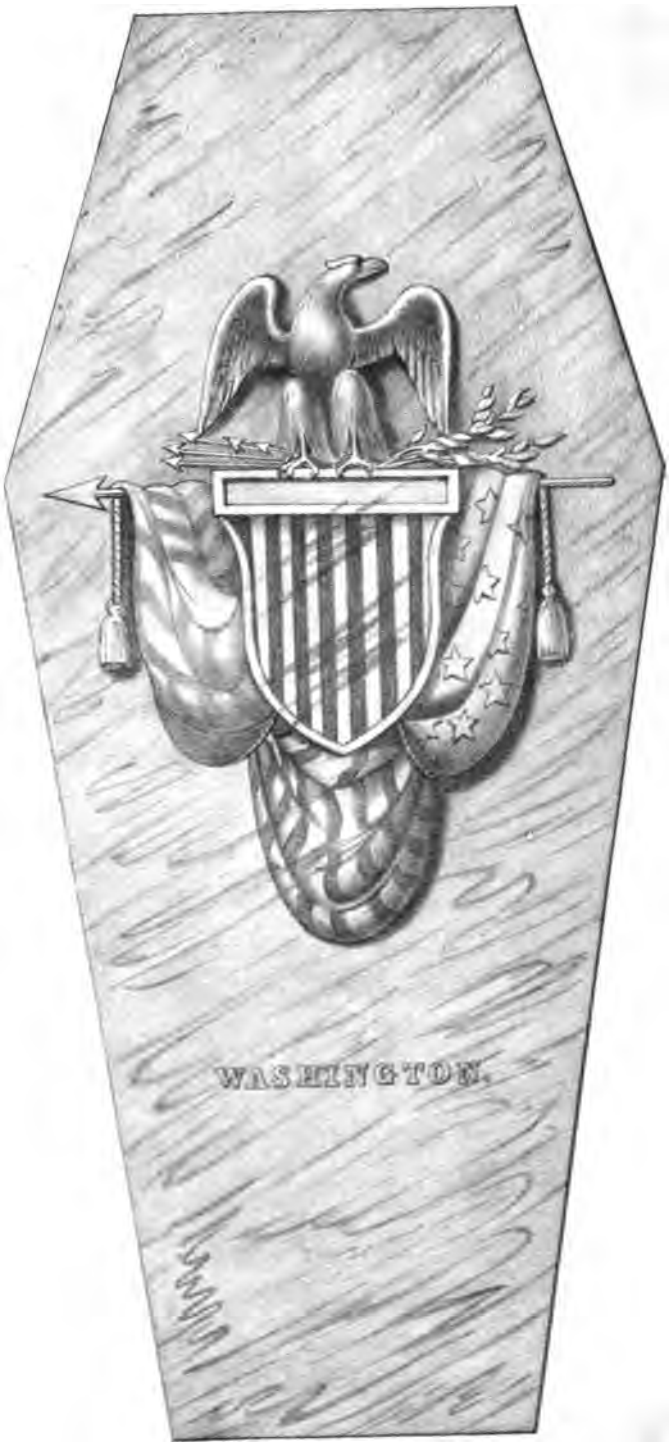
I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, HE THAT
BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD,
YET SHALL HE LIVE.

At a small distance from the walls of the tomb, there is a surrounding enclosure of brick, elevated to the height of twelve feet, with an iron gate in front opening several feet in advance of the vault door. The gateway is flanked with pilasters, surmounted by a stone cornice and coping, covering a pointed gothic arch, over which is a plain slab with this inscription:

WITHIN THIS ENCLOSURE REST THE REMAINS OF GENERAL
GEORGE WASHINGTON.

In 1837, John Struthers, Esq., of Philadelphia, requested the privilege of constructing a coffin, or sarcophagus of marble, in which the remains of THE FATHER

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OF HIS COUNTRY might be deposited; and received from the surviving executor the following reply:

AUDLEY, February 22d, 1837.

DEAR SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 7th inst. In reply to it, I can only say, being the only surviving executor of General WASHINGTON, I have only my own feelings to consult upon a refusal or acceptance of your very liberal and polite offer of a stone coffin, as a depository for the remains of him "WHO WAS FIRST IN WAR, FIRST IN PEACE, AND FIRST IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN."

The manner of making your offer, the delicacy with which it is proffered, forbids a refusal to accept it; and I tender you, in behalf of every relative of this distinguished man, the most cordial and sincere thanks for the kind feeling which has actuated you upon this occasion. I leave it to your experience to make it in form and manner as you may think best.

I am, dear Sir,

Very respectfully yours,

LAWRENCE LEWIS.

Mr. Struthers, accordingly, constructed a sarcophagus, of modern form, from a solid block of Pennsylvania marble, eight feet in length, three feet in width, and two feet in height, resting on a plinth which projects four inches round the base. The top, or covering-stone, is of Italian marble, on which is sculptured, in the boldest relief, the arms and insignia of the United States; the design occupying a large portion of the

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central part of the top surface. Between these armorial bearings and the foot of the coffin is deeply cut, in large letters, the name of

WASHINGTON.

On the foot of the coffin is inscribed,

BY PERMISSION OF LAWRENCE LEWIS, Esq., THIS

SARCOPHAGUS OF **WASHINGTON**, WAS PRESENTED BY

JOHN STRUTHERS, OF PHILADELPHIA,

MARBLE MASON.

This beautiful sarcophagus being forwarded to Mount Vernon; on Saturday, the 7th of October, 1837, the body of WASHINGTON, encased in lead, was taken from the vault and laid in it; and the ponderous top-stone being put on, set in cement, sealed from our sight the mortal remains of him whose name will be handed down to the latest generations as the greatest of men.

It is placed on the right of the gateway or entrance to the tomb; and another coffin, also of marble, containing the remains of Mrs. WASHINGTON, on the left: both being open to the view, through the iron gate, of those who make a pilgrimage to MOUNT VERNON.

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THE TOMB OF VANBRUGH AT BLENHEIM.

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THE WILL OF WASHINGTON.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

I, GEORGE WASHINGTON, of Mount Vernon, a citizen of the United States, and lately President of the same, do make, ordain, and declare this instrument, which is written with my own hand, and every page thereof subscribed with my name, to be my last WILL and TESTAMENT, revoking all others.

IMPRIMIS.—All my debts, of which there are but few, and none of magnitude, are to be punctually and speedily paid, and the legacies, hereinafter bequeathed, are to be discharged as soon as circumstances will permit, and in the manner directed.

ITEM.—To my dearly beloved wife, MARTHA WASHINGTON, I give and bequeath the use, profit, and benefit of my whole estate, real and personal, for the term of her natural life, except such parts thereof as are specially disposed of hereafter. My improved lot in the town of Alexandria, situated on Pitt and Cameron streets, I give to her and her heirs for ever; as I also do my household and kitchen furniture of every sort and kind, with the liquors and groceries which may be on hand at the time of my decease, to be used and disposed of as she may think proper.

ITEM.—Upon the decease of my wife, it is my will and desire, that all the slaves whom I hold in my own right, shall receive their freedom. To emancipate them during her life would, though earnestly wished by me, be attended with insuperable difficulties, on account of their intermixture by marriage with the dower negroes, as

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to excite the most painful sensations, if not disagreeable consequences to the latter, while both descriptions are in the occupancy of the same proprietor; it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower negroes are held, to manumit them. And whereas, among those who will receive freedom according to this devise, there may be some, who, from old age or bodily infirmities, and others, who, on account of their infancy, will be unable to support themselves, it is my will and desire, that all, who come under the first and second description, shall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live; and that such of the latter description as have no parents living, or, if living, are unable or unwilling to provide for them, shall be bound by the court until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and, in cases where no record can be produced, whereby their ages can be ascertained, the judgment of the court, upon its own view of the subject, shall be adequate and final. The negroes thus bound, are (by their masters or mistresses) to be taught to read and write, and to be brought up to some useful occupation, agreeably to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, providing for the support of orphan and other poor children. And I do hereby expressly forbid the sale or transportation out of the said Commonwealth, of any slave I may die possessed of, under any pretence whatever. And I do, moreover, most pointedly and most solemnly enjoin it upon my executors hereafter named, or the survivors of them, to see that this clause respecting slaves, and every part thereof, be religiously fulfilled at the epoch at which it is directed to take place, without evasion, neglect, or delay, after the crops which may then be on the ground are harvested, particularly as it respects the aged and infirm; seeing that a regular and permanent fund be established for their support, as long as there are subjects requiring it; not trusting to the uncertain provision to be made by individuals. And to my mulatto man William, calling himself William Lee, I give immediate freedom, or, if he should prefer it, (on account of the accidents which have befallen him, and which have rendered him incapable of walking, or of any active employment,) to remain in the situation he now is, it shall be optional in him to do so; in either case, however, I allow him an annuity of thirty dollars, during his natural life, which shall be independent of the victuals and clothes he has been accustomed to receive, if he chooses the last alternative; but in full with his

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freedom if he prefers the first; and this I give him, as a testimony of my sense of his attachment to me, and for his faithful services during the revolutionary war.

ITEM.—To the trustees (governors, or by whatsoever other name they may be designated) of the Academy in the town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath, in trust, four thousand dollars, or in other words, twenty of the shares which I hold in the Bank of Alexandria, towards the support of a free school, established at, and annexed to, the said Academy, for the purpose of educating such orphan children, or the children of such other poor and indigent persons, as are unable to accomplish it with their own means, and who, in the judgment of the trustees of the said seminary, are best entitled to the benefit of this donation. The aforesaid twenty shares I give and bequeath in perpetuity; the dividends only of which are to be drawn for and applied, by the trustees for the time being, for the uses above mentioned; the stock to remain entire and untouched, unless indications of failure of said bank should be so apparent, or a discontinuance thereof, should render a removal of this fund necessary. In either of these cases, the amount of the stock here devised is to be vested in some other bank, or public institution, whereby the interest may with regularity and certainty be drawn and applied as above. And to prevent misconception, my meaning is, and is hereby declared to be, that these twenty shares are in lieu of, and not in addition to the thousand pounds given by a missive letter some years ago, in consequence whereof an annuity of fifty pounds has since been paid towards the support of this institution.

ITEM.—Whereas by a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the Legislature thereof was pleased, as an evidence of its approbation of the services I had rendered the public during the Revolution, and partly, I believe, in consideration of my having suggested the vast advantages which the community would derive from the extension of its inland navigation under legislative patronage, to present me with one hundred shares, of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated Company, established for the purpose of extending the navigation of James River from the tide water to the mountains; and also with fifty shares, of £100 sterling each, in

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the corporation of another Company, likewise established for the similar purpose of opening the navigation of the River Potomac from the tide water to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, although the offer was highly honourable and grateful to my feelings, was refused, as inconsistent with a principle which I had adopted, and had never departed from, viz. not to receive pecuniary compensation for any services I could render my country in its arduous struggle with Great Britain for its rights, and because I had evaded similar propositions from other States in the Union; adding to this refusal, however, an intimation, that, if it should be the pleasure of the Legislature to permit me to appropriate the said shares to public uses, I would receive them on those terms with due sensibility; and this it having consented to, in flattering terms, as will appear by a subsequent law, and sundry resolutions, in the most ample and honourable manner;—I proceed after this recital, for the more correct understanding of the case, to declare; that, as it has always been a source of serious regret with me, to see the youth of these United States sent to foreign countries for the purpose of education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happiness of their own; contracting too frequently, not only habits of dissipation and extravagance, but principles unfriendly to republican government, and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind, which thereafter are rarely overcome; for these reasons it has been my ardent wish to see a plan devised on a liberal scale, which would have a tendency to spread systematic ideas through all parts of this rising empire, thereby to do away local attachments and state prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought to admit, from our national councils. Looking anxiously forward to the accomplishment of so desirable an object as this is, (in my estimation,) my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the measure, than the establishment of a UNIVERSITY in a central part of the United States, to which the youths of fortune and talents from all parts thereof may be sent for the completion of their education, in all the branches of polite literature, in arts and sciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government, and, as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment, by associating with each other, and forming friendships in juvenile years, be enabled to free themselves in a proper

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degree from those local prejudices and habitual jealousies which have just been mentioned, and which, when carried to excess, are never-failing sources of disquietude to the public mind, and pregnant of mischievous consequences to this country. Under these impressions, so fully dilated,

ITEM.—I give and bequeath, in perpetuity, the fifty shares which I hold in the Potomac Company, (under the aforesaid acts of the Legislature of Virginia,) towards the endowment of a University, to be established within the limits of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, under the auspices of the general government, if that government should incline to extend a fostering hand towards it; and, until such seminary is established, and the funds arising on these shares shall be required for its support, my further will and desire is, that the profit accruing therefrom shall, whenever the dividends are made, be laid out in purchasing stock in the Bank of Columbia, or some other bank, at the discretion of my executors, or by the Treasurer of the United States for the time being, under the direction of Congress, provided that honourable body should patronise the measure; and the dividends proceeding from the purchase of such stock are to be invested in more stock, and so on, until a sum adequate to the accomplishment of the object is obtained; of which I have not the smallest doubt before many years pass away, even if no aid or encouragement is given by the legislative authority, or from any other source.

ITEM.—The hundred shares, which I hold in the James River Company, I have given, and now confirm in perpetuity, to and for the use and benefit of Liberty Hall Academy, in the county of Rockbridge, in the commonwealth of Virginia.

ITEM.—I release, exonerate, and discharge the estate of my deceased brother, Samuel Washington, from the payment of the money which is due to me for the land I sold to Philip Pendleton, (lying in the county of Berkeley,) who assigned the same to him, the said Samuel, who by agreement was to pay me therefor. And whereas, by some contract (the purport of which was never communicated to me) between the said Samuel and his son, Thornton Washington, the latter became possessed of the

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aforesaid land, without any conveyance having passed from me, either to the said Pendleton, the said Samuel, or the said Thornton, and without any consideration having been made, by which neglect neither the legal nor equitable title has been alienated; it rests therefore with me to declare my intentions concerning the premises; and these are, to give and bequeath the said land to whomsoever the said Thornton Washington, (who is also dead) devised the same, or to his heirs for ever, if he died intestate; exonerating the estate of the said Thornton, equally with that of the said Samuel, from payment of the purchase money, which, with interest, agreeably to the original contract with the said Pendleton, would amount to more than a thousand pounds. And whereas two other sons of my deceased brother Samuel, namely, George Steptoe Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington, were, by the decease of those to whose care they were committed, brought under my protection, and, in consequence, have occasioned advances on my part, for their education at college and other schools, for their board, clothing, and other incidental expenses, to the amount of near five thousand dollars, over and above the sums furnished by their estate, which sum it may be inconvenient for them or their father's estate to refund; I do for these reasons acquit them and the said estate from the payment thereof, my intention being, that all accounts between them and me, and their father's estate and me, shall stand balanced.

ITEM.—The balance due to me from the estate of Bartholomew Dandridge, deceased, (my wife's brother) and which amounted on the first day of October, 1795, to four hundred and twenty-five pounds, (as will appear by an account rendered by his deceased son, John Dandridge, who was the acting executor of his father's will,) I release and acquit from the payment thereof. And the negroes, then thirty-three in number, formerly belonging to the said estate, who were taken in execution, sold, and purchased in on my account, in the year ——, and ever since have remained in the possession and to the use of Mary, widow of the said Bartholomew Dandridge, with their increase, it is my will and desire shall continue and be in her possession, without paying hire, or making compensation for the same for the time past, or to come, during her natural life; at the expiration of which, I

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direct that all of them who are forty years old and upwards shall receive their freedom; and all under that age, and above sixteen, shall serve seven years and no longer; and all under sixteen years shall serve until they are twenty-five years of age, and then be free. And, to avoid disputes respecting the ages of any of these negroes, they are to be taken into the court of the county in which they reside; and the judgment thereof, in this relation, shall be final, and record thereof made, which may be adduced as evidence at any time thereafter, if disputes should arise concerning the same. And I further direct, that the heirs of the said Bartholomew Dandridge shall equally share the benefits arising from the services of the said negroes, according to the tenor of this devise, upon the decease of their mother.

ITEM.—If Charles Carter, who intermarried with my niece Betty Lewis, is not sufficiently secured in the title to the lots he had of me in the town of Fredericksburg, it is my will and desire, that my executors shall make such conveyances of them as the law requires to render it perfect.

ITEM.—To my nephew, William Augustine Washington, and his heirs, (if he should conceive them to be objects worth prosecuting,) a lot in the town of Manchester, (oposite to Richmond,) No. 265, drawn on my sole account, and also the tenth of one or two hundred acre lots, and two or three half acre lots, in the city and vicinity of Richmond, drawn in partnership with nine others, all in the lottery of the deceased William Byrd, are given; as is also a lot which I purchased of John Hood, conveyed by William Willie and Samuel Gordon, trustees of the said John Hood, numbered 139, in the town of Edinburgh, in the county of Prince George, state of Virginia.

ITEM.—To my nephew, Bushrod Washington, I give and bequeath all the papers in my possession, which relate to my civil and military administration of the affairs of this country. I leave to him also such of my private papers as are worth preserving; and at the decease of my wife, and before, if she is not inclined to retain them, I give and bequeath my library of books and pamphlets of every kind.

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ITEM.—Having sold lands which I possessed in the state of Pennsylvania, and part of a tract held in equal right with George Clinton, late governor of New York, in the state of New York, my share of land and interest in the Great Dismal Swamp, and a tract of land which I owned in the county of Gloucester, withholding the legal titles thereto, until the consideration money should be paid, and having moreover leased and conditionally sold (as will appear by the tenor of the said leases) all my lands upon the Great Kanhawa, and a tract upon Difficut Run, in the county of Loudoun, it is my will and direction, that whensoever the contracts are fully and respectively complied with, according to the spirit, true intent, and meaning thereof, on the part of the purchasers, their heirs or assigns, that then, and in that case, conveyances are to be made, agreeably to the terms of said contracts, and the money arising therefrom, when paid, to be vested in bank stock; the dividends whereof, as of that also which is already vested therein, are to inure to my said wife during her life; but the stock itself is to remain and be subject to the general distribution hereafter directed.

ITEM.—To the Earl of Buchan I recommit the "Box made of the Oak that sheltered the great Sir William Wallace, after the battle of Falkirk," presented to me by his Lordship, in terms too flattering for me to repeat, with a request "to pass it, on the event of my decease, to the man in my country, who should appear to merit it best, upon the same conditions that have induced him to send it to me." Whether easy or not to select the man, who might comport with his Lordship's opinion in this respect, is not for me to say; but, conceiving that no disposition of this valuable curiosity can be more eligible than the recommitment of it to his own cabinet, agreeably to the original design of the Goldsmith's Company of Edinburgh, who presented it to him, and, at his request, consented that it should be transferred to me, I do give and bequeath the same to his Lordship; and, in case of his decease, to his heir, with my grateful thanks for the distingushed honour of presenting it to me, and more especially for the favourable sentiments with which he accompanied it.

ITEM.—To my brother, Charles Washington, I give and bequeath the gold-headed

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cane left me by Dr. Franklin in his will. I add nothing to it, because of the ample provision I have made for his issue. To the acquaintances and friends of my juvenile years, Lawrence Washington and Robert Washington, of Chotanck, I give my other two gold-headed canes, having my arms engraved on them; and to each, as they will be useful where they live, I leave one of the spyglasses, which constituted part of my equipage during the late war. To my compatriot in arms, and old and intimate friend, Dr. Craik, I give my bureau, (or, as the cabinet-makers call it, tambour secretary,) and the circular chair, an appendage of my study. To Dr. David Stuart, I give my large shaving and dressing table, and my telescope. To the Reverend, now Bryan, Lord Fairfax, I give a Bible, in three large folio volumes, with notes, presented to me by the Right Reverend Thomas Wilson, Bishop of Sodor and Man. To General de Lafayette, I give a pair of finely wrought steel pistols, taken from the enemy in the revolutionary war. To my sisters-in-law, Hannah Washington and Mildred Washington, to my friends, Eleanor Stuart, Hannah Washington, of Fairfield, and Elizabeth Washington, of Hayfield, I give each a mourning ring, of the value of one hundred dollars. These bequests are not made for the intrinsic value of them, but as mementos of my esteem and regard. To Tobias Lear, I give the use of the farm, which he now holds in virtue of a lease from me to him and his deceased wife, (for and during their natural lives,) free from rent during his life; and at the expiration of which, it is to be disposed of as is hereinafter directed. To Sally B. Haynie, (a distant relation of mine,) I give and bequeath three hundred dollars. To Sarah Green, daughter of the deceased Thomas Bishop, and to Ann Walker, daughter of John Alton, also deceased, I give each one hundred dollars, in consideration of the attachment of their fathers to me; each of whom having lived nearly forty years in my family. To each of my nephews, William Augustine Washington, George Lewis, George Steptoe Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Samuel Washington, I give one of the swords, or couteaux, of which I may die possessed; and they are to choose in the order they are named. These swords are accompanied with an injunction not to unsheath them for the purpose of shedding blood, except it be for self-defence, or in defence of their country

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and its rights; and in the latter case, to keep them unsheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquishment thereof.

And now, having gone through these specific devises, with explanations for the more correct understanding of the meaning and design of them, I proceed to the distribution of the more important parts of my estate, in manner following:

First.—To my nephew, Bushrod Washington, and his heirs, (partly in consideration of an intimation to his deceased father, while we were bachelors, and he had kindly undertaken to superintend my estate during my military services in the former war between Great Britain and France, that, if I should fall therein, Mount Vernon, then less extensive in domain than at present, should become his property,) I give and bequeath all that part thereof, which is comprehended within the following limits, viz. Beginning at the ford of Dogue Run, near the Mill, and extending along the road, and bounded thereby, as it now goes, and ever has gone, since my recollection of it, to the ford of Little Hunting Creek, at the Gum Spring, until it comes to a knoll opposite to an old road, which formerly passed through the lower field of Muddy-Hole Farm; at which, on the north side of said road, are three red or Spanish oaks, marked as a corner, and a stone placed; thence by a line of trees, to be marked rectangular, to the back line or outer boundary of the tract between Thompson Mason and myself; thence with that line easterly (now double ditching, with a post-and-rail fence thereon) to the run of Little Hunting Creek; thence with that run, which is the boundary between the lands of the late Humphrey Peake and me, to the tide-water of the said creek; thence by that water to Potomac River; thence with the river to the mouth of Dogue Creek; and thence with the said Dogue Creek to the place of beginning at the aforesaid ford; containing upwards of four thousand acres, be the same more or less, together with the mansion-house, and all other buildings and improvements thereon.

Second.—In consideration of the consanguinity between them and my wife, being as nearly related to her as to myself, as on account of the affection I had for, and

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the obligation I was under to their father when living, who from his youth had attached himself to my person, and followed my fortunes through the vicissitudes of the late Revolution, afterwards devoting his time to the superintendence of my private concerns for many years, whilst my public employments rendered it impracticable for me to do it myself, thereby affording me essential services, and always performing them in a manner the most filial and respectful; for these reasons, I say, I give and bequeath to George Fayette Washington, and Lawrence Augustine Washington, and their heirs, my estate east of Little Hunting Creek, lying on the River Potomac, including the farm of three hundred and sixty acres, leased to Tobias Lear, as noticed before, and containing in the whole, by deed, two thousand and twenty-seven acres, be it more or less; which said estate it is my will and desire should be equitably and advantageously divided between them, according to quantity, quality, and other circumstances, when the youngest shall have arrived at the age of twenty-one years, by three judicious and disinterested men; one to be chosen by each of the brothers, and the third by these two. In the mean time, if the termination of my wife's interest therein should have ceased, the profits arising therefrom are to be applied for their joint uses and benefit.

THIRD.—And whereas it has always been my intention, since my expectation of having issue has ceased, to consider the grand-children of my wife in the same light as I do my own relations, and to act a friendly part by them; more especially by the two whom we have raised from their earliest infancy, namely, Eleanor Parke Custis, and George Washington Parke Custis; and whereas the former of these hath lately intermarried with Lawrence Lewis, a son of my deceased sister, Betty Lewis, by which union the inducement to provide for them both has increased; wherefore I give and bequeath to the said Lawrence Lewis and Eleanor Parke Lewis, his wife, and their heirs, the residue of my Mount Vernon estate, not already devised to my nephew, Bushrod Washington, comprehended within the following description, viz. All the land north of the road leading from the ford of Dogue Run, to the Gum Spring, as described in the devise of the other part of the tract to Bushrod Washington, until it comes to the stone and three red or Spanish oaks on the knoll; thence

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with the rectangular line to the back line (between Mr. Mason and me); thence with that line westerly along the new double ditch to Dogue Run, by the tumbling dam of my mill; thence with the said run to the ford aforementioned. To which I add all the land I possess west of the said Dogue Run and Dogue Creek, bounded easterly and southerly thereby; together with the mill, distillery, and all other houses and improvements on the premises, making together about two thousand acres, be it more or less.

FOURTH.—Actuated by the principle already mentioned, I give and bequeath to George Washington Parke Custis, the grandson of my wife, and my ward, and to his heirs, the tract I hold on Four Mile Run, in the vicinity of Alexandria, containing one thousand two hundred acres, more or less, and my entire square, No. 21, in the city of Washington.

FIFTH.—All the rest and residue of my estate real and personal, not disposed of in manner aforesaid, in whatsoever consisting, wheresoever lying, and whensoever found, (a schedule of which, as far as is recollected, with a reasonable estimate of its value, is hereunto annexed,) I desire may be sold by my executors, at such times, in such manner, and on such credits, if an equal, valid, and satisfactory distribution of the specific property cannot be made without, as in their judgment shall be most conducive to the interest of the parties concerned; and the moneys arising therefrom to be divided into twenty-three equal parts, and applied as follows, viz. To William Augustine Washington, Elizabeth Spotswood, Jane Thornton, and the heirs of Ann Ashton, sons and daughters of my deceased brother, Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath four parts; that is, one part to each of them. To Fielding Lewis, George Lewis, Robert Lewis, Howell Lewis, and Betty Carter, sons and daughter of my deceased sister, Betty Lewis, I give and bequeath five other parts; one to each of them. To George Steptoe Washington, Lawrence Augustine Washington, Harriet Parks, and the heirs of Thornton Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased brother Samuel Washington, I give and bequeath other four parts; one to each of them. To Corbin Washington, and the heirs of Jane Washington, son and daughter of my deceased

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brother John Augustine Washington, I give and bequeath two parts; one to each of them. To Samuel Washington, Francis Ball, and Mildred Hammond, son and daughter of my brother Charles Washington, I give and bequeath three parts; one to each of them. And to George Fayette Washington, Charles Augustine Washington, and Maria Washington, sons and daughter of my deceased nephew, George Augustine Washington, I give one other part, that is, to each a third of that part. To Elizabeth Parke Law, Martha Parke Peter, and Eleanor Parke Lewis, I give and bequeath three other parts; that is, a part to each of them. And to my nephews Bushrod Washington, and Lawrence Lewis, and to my ward, the grandson of my wife, I give and bequeath one other part; that is, a third thereof to each of them. And if it should so happen, that any of the persons whose names are here enumerated (unknown to me) should now be dead, or should die before me, that in either of these cases, the heirs of such deceased person shall, notwithstanding, derive all the benefits of the bequest, in the same manner as if he or she was actually living at the time. And, by way of advice, I recommend it to my executors not to be precipitate in disposing of the landed property, (herein directed to be sold,) if from temporary causes the sale thereof should be dull; experience having fully evinced, that the price of land, especially above the falls of the river, and on the western waters, has been progressively rising, and cannot be long checked in its increasing value. And I particularly recommend it to such of the legatees (under this clause of my will,) as can make it convenient, to take each a share of my stock in the Potomac Company, in preference to the amount of what it might sell for; being thoroughly convinced myself, that no uses to which the money can be applied, will be so productive as the tolls arising from this navigation when in full operation, (and thus, from the nature of things, it must be, ere long,) and more especially if that of the Shenandoah is added thereto.

The family vault at Mount Vernon requiring repairs, and being improperly situated besides, I desire that a new one of brick, and upon a larger scale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Enclosure, on the ground which is marked out; in which my remains, with those of my deceased relations (now in the old vault), and such others of my family as may choose to be entombed there, may

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be deposited. And it is my express desire, that my corpse may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral oration.

LASTLY.—I constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife, Martha Washington, my nephews, William Augustine Washington, Bushrod Washington, George Steptoe Washington, Samuel Washington, and Lawrence Lewis, and my ward, George Washington Parke Curtis (when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years), executrix and executors of this my will and testament, in the construction of which it will be readily perceived, that no professional character has been consulted, or has had any agency in the draft; and that, although it has occupied many of my leisure hours to digest, and to throw it into its present form, it may, notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect; but, having endeavoured to be plain and explicit in all the devises, even at the expense of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope and trust that no disputes will arise concerning them. But if, contrary to expectation, the case should be otherwise, from the want of legal expressions, or the usual technical terms, or because too much or too little has been said on any of the devises to be consonant with law, my will and direction expressly is, that all disputes (if unhappily any should arise) shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding; two to be chosen by the disputants, each having the choice of one, and the third by those two; which three men, thus chosen, shall, unfettered by law or legal constructions, declare their sense of the testator's intention; and such decision is, to all intents and purposes, to be as binding on the parties as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States.

IN WITNESS OF ALL AND OF EACH OF THE THINGS HEREIN CONTAINED, I HAVE SET MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS NINTH DAY OF JULY, IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY,* AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

* The testator seems to have omitted the word "nine."

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A TRUE AND BEAUTIFUL PORTRAIT

OF THE

CHARACTER OF GENERAL WASHINGTON,

BY THE

LATE HONOURABLE GEORGE CANNING,

PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND

General Washington was, we believe, in his sixty-eighth year. The height of his person was about six feet two inches; his chest full, and his limbs, though rather slender, well shaped and muscular. His head was small, in which respect he resembled the make of a great number of his countrymen. His eyes were of a very light grey colour; and, in proportion to the length of his face, his nose was long. Mr. Stewart, the eminent portrait painter, used to say, there were features in his face totally different from what he had ever observed in that of any other human being; the sockets of his eyes, for instance, were larger than he had ever met with before, and the upper part of the nose broader. All his features, he observed, were indicative of the strongest passions, yet, like Socrates, his judgment and great self-command, have always made him appear a man of different character in the eyes of the world. He always spoke with great diffidence, and sometimes hesitated for a word, but it was always to find one particularly well calculated to express his meaning. His language was manly and expressive. At levee, his discourse with strangers turned principally upon the subject of America; and if they had been through any remarkable places, his conversation was free and particularly interesting, for he was intimately ac-

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quainted with every part of the country. He was much more open and free in his behaviour at the levee than in private, and in the company of ladies, still more so, than when solely with men. Few persons ever found themselves for the first time in the company of General WASHINGTON, without being impressed with a certain degree of veneration and awe; nor did those emotions subside on a closer acquaintance; on the contrary, his person and deportment, were such, as rather tended to augment them. The whole range of history does not present to our view, a character, upon which we can dwell with such entire and unmixed admiration. *The long life of General Washington, is not stained by a single blot.*

He was indeed a man of such rare endowments, and such fortunate temperament, that every action he performed, was alike exempted from the character of vice or weakness. Whatever he said, or did, or wrote, was stamped with a striking and peculiar propriety. All his qualities were so happily blended, and so nicely harmonized, that the result was a great and perfect whole; the powers of his mind, and the dispositions of his heart, were admirably suited to each other. It was the union of the most consummate prudence, with the most perfect moderation. His views, though large and liberal, were not extravagant; his virtues, though comprehensive and beneficent, were discriminating, judicious, and practical; yet his character, though regular and uniform, possessed none of the littleness which may sometimes belong to those descriptions of men. It was formed a majestic pile, the effect of which was not impaired, but improved by order and symmetry; there was nothing in it to dazzle by wildness, or surprise by eccentricity. It was a higher species of moral beauty; it contained everything great and elevated, but it had no false and tinsel ornament; it was not the model cried up by fashion and circumstance; its excellence was adapted to the true and just moral taste, incapable of change from the varying accidents of manners and opinions.

General WASHINGTON is not the Idol of a day, but the Hero of ages! Placed in circumstances of the most trying difficulty at the beginning of the American contest, he accepted that situation which was pre-eminent in danger and responsibility. His per-

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severance overcame every obstacle, conciliated every opposition; his genius supplied every resource. His enlarged views could plan, revise, and improve every branch of civil and military operation. He had the superior courage which can act, or forbear to act, as true policy dictates, careless of the reproaches of ignorance, either in power, or out of power. He knew how to conquer by waiting in spite of obloquy, for the moment of victory, and he merited true praise by despising unmerited censure.

In the most arduous movements of the contest, his prudent firmness proved the salvation of the cause which he supported. His conduct was on all occasions guided by the most pure disinterestedness. Far superior to low and grovelling motives, he seemed even to be uninfluenced by that ambition which has justly been called, the instinct of great souls. He acted ever as if his country's welfare, and that alone, was the moving spring. His excellent mind needed not even the stimulus of ambition, or the prospect of fame. Glory was but a secondary consideration. He performed great actions, he persevered in a course of laborious utility, with an equanimity that neither sought distinction, nor was flattered by it; his reward was in the consciousness of his rectitude, and in the success of his patriotic efforts. As his elevation to the chief power was the unbiassed choice of his countrymen, his exercise of it was agreeable to the purity of its origin; as he had neither solicited nor usurped dominion, he had neither to contend with rivals, nor the revenge of enemies. As his authority was undisputed, so it required no jealous precautions, no rigorous severity. His government was mild and gentle; it was beneficent and liberal; it was wise and just; his prudent administration, consolidated and enlarged the dominion of an infant republic.

In voluntarily resigning the Magistracy which he had filled with such distinguished honour, he enjoyed the unequalled satisfaction of leaving to the state, he had contributed to establish, the fruits of his wisdom, and the example of his virtues. It is some consolation amidst the violence of ambition, and the criminal thirst of power, of which so many instances occur around us, to find a character whom it is honourable to admire, and virtuous to imitate. A conqueror for the freedom of his country! a legislator for its security! a magistrate for its happiness! his glories were never

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sullied by those excesses into which the highest qualities are apt to degenerate. With the greatest virtues, he was exempt from the corresponding vices. He was a man in whom the elements seemed so blended, that "Nature might have stood up to all the world," and owned him as her work. His fame, bound to no country, will be confined to no age.

The character of General WASHINGTON, which his contemporaries regret and admire, will be transmitted to posterity, and the memory of his virtues, while patriotism and virtue are held sacred among men, will remain undiminished!

PEACE TO THE MEMORY OF A MAN OF WORTH!

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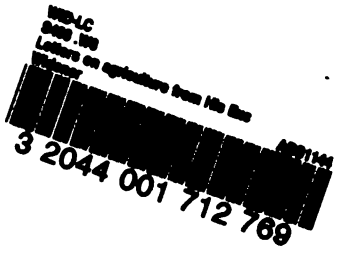
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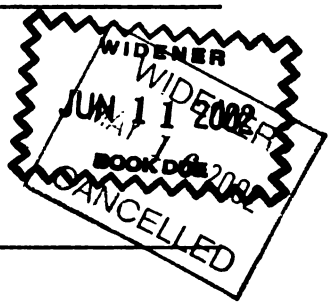
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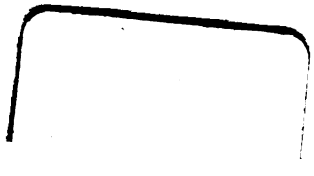
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